From The President's Desk

As a community broadcaster we are legally bound to continue to represent the community interest that was represented when the licence was allocated or last renewed. Our obligation in this regard is clearly set out in the Broadcasting Service Act (BSA) and we are reminded in the Codes of Practice, another legally binding document.

Tank FM has only ever applied to serve the entire community; we are a general interest station in a community with a diverse range of interests.

Item 9 in the preamble to the Tank FM Constitution has this to say; "Seek to widen the community's involvement in broadcasting and to encourage participation by those denied access, and to those not adequately served by other media."

Those words are reinforced in Clause 2.1 of the station's policy document pursuant to section 2 of the Codes of Practice.

It really is quite unambiguous; we are required to make air time available to any group or individual, regardless of our personal feelings towards the aims or objectives of that group or individual. Quite obviously their purpose must be legal and they must comply with all of the stations guidelines and legal obligations as set down in the Tank FM constitution, the Codes of Practice, Tank FM's policy documents in respect of the Codes of Practice and the BSA. All documents except the BSA are available for downloading from the Tank FM web page at www.tankfm.org.

We must never overlook our obligations with regard to serving our community in a manner that meets the expectations of our community and those of the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the licencing authority.

Most days of most weeks are busy for some members of management and this time of the year it gets a bit busier. It starts in November as we prepare for a Special Resolution to set the fees in December and continues through January and February in the lead-up to the Annual General Meeting in March. Also in January and February is the work required to prepare for a new program cycle that commences on March 1st.

The timing of some of these events is currently under review in an attempt to smooth out some wrinkles.

Take for example the setting of fees in December, which leaves an approximately twelve week window in which fees must be paid. But is it really twelve weeks? Given that the earliest publication of the new fee amount will be in the January IYE,
the window narrows by four weeks. Do we have to set the fees in December? No, we don't. The constitution sets December as the latest time for setting fees, not the earliest. There is no reason why they can't be set in, say, November (or even April!) to provide more breathing space and a reasonable notification period for members of any new fee structure.

Program Application forms are affected, too, especially the question that asks if you are a financial member. The Presenters' Agreement specifies you must be a financial member to be a presenter. Did you tick yes, when you hadn't paid? The office staff do check your financial status. Fees fell due on 31st December so, unless you paid prior to that date you are unfinancial until such time as you do pay. Members have until close of business on the day of the AGM to pay their fees. For a presenter, they must have paid prior to ticking the "I am a financial member" box on their Program Application form. Two sets of rules? How to fix?

The fixes rest with changing the timing of certain events. For example, if all program cycles were moved by one month, the March 1st to June 30th cycle, which straddles the end of the fee payment period, would become April 1st to July 31st, outside that payment window. Moving the meeting for the Special Resolution to set fees to November or, maybe October, would create a more flexible payment window. And, finally, amend the constitution to make fees payable by the last working day in February. All of those suggestions are easy to implement, would eliminate the 'two rule' situation and would avoid some of the clutter that exists during our 'busy time" leading up to the AGM. The changes would be virtually transparent to members.

I must emphasise that the suggested fixes are just me thinking out loud at this point in time. They would need to be ratified by the committee and, in the case of a constitution change, the members of the association, if the ideas were thought fit to implement.

I do need to thank Ross Delaforce and Gary Delaforce for recent night work in the Production Studio at the office.

The old mixing desk has now been removed and the McCubbin desk we bought at auction has been installed and placed into service. This action has provided considerably more space on the bench in the Production Studio and has provided Tank FM with a much more reliable piece of vital equipment.

In wasting no time, Gary presented his 70's Saturday program from the shop the very next day, the 22nd January, with just a small glitch being observed.

The old desk was a SAM 12 (Studio Audio Mixer), built at Nabiac and purchased by Tank FM in about 1994. It served us well for many years but is no longer serviceable due to failing or failed imported (French) switches being no longer available.

Yes, it's about to happen. The new Training Manual and CDROM will be available for distribution and discussion at the mandatory training session on Sunday, 13th February 2011.

The manuals are in the final stages of printing and being put into binders and, the CDROM's are ready. Preparation of the manuals involved printing some thousands of pages on the office colour laser printer, one of two that were donated to Tank FM by the Coastline Credit Union. Although we will incur an approximately $600 penalty for purchasing replacement toner cartridges, the result is professional and very much cheaper than having them printed outside the association.

In his notes in this IYE, Treasurer Bob Hoffman comments on the amount of money spent on facilities for the members of Tank FM. The figure mentioned would have been beyond our wildest dreams not too many years ago yet here it is a reality.

It's not by chance that the station is in its current financial position, it's the result of a lot of hard work by a few people, sometimes in the face of criticism, and the station maintaining a programming structure that seeks professionalism. That is what has attracted the financial and listener support we need to survive.

I make no apology for supporting this business-like approach to keeping Tank FM viable.

Ray Wells
President
ray@tankfm.org

TankFM acknowledges the financial assistance of
the Community Broadcasting Foundation
In this month’s column I thought that I would dedicate it from my radio show’s perspective. In other words it will be about seventies artists.

During the month of January the music industry lost three seventies artists, two Australian and one Scotsman. In case you missed the news here is some information about Steve Prestwich (Cold Chisel), Harvey James (Sherbet) and Gerry Rafferty –

Steve Prestwich – Cold Chisel’s drummer – brief career history

Steven William Prestwich was born in Liverpool, England in 1954. He was a member of the folk/rock band, Sandy, in 1970 in the United Kingdom. His family relocated to Adelaide, South Australia in 1971 when he was aged 17. He was a member of Elizabeth band Ice with bassist Michael Smith and guitarist John Pryer from 1971 to 1973. In 1973, he was the founding drummer for heavy metal group Orange with the line-up of Jimmy Barnes, Ian Moss, Don Walker and Leszek Kaczmarek. Orange evolved into pub rockers, Cold Chisel in 1974 and Prestwich remained a member until early 1983. During his time in Cold Chisel, Prestwich wrote "When the War Is Over" and "Forever Now". Both songs appeared on their 1982 album, Circus Animals. He briefly rejoined Cold Chisel for their Last Stand Tour from October until the group's final show on 12 December 1983. Prestwich joined the Australian group, Little River Band (1984–1986) toured the United States and released two albums with them. Little River Band recorded "When the War is Over" with John Farnham on vocals. Prestwich rejoined Cold Chisel in later re formations. Prestwich released his first solo album, Since You’ve Been Gone in August 2000, which he also produced. His second album, Every Highway was released in October 2009. Prestwich was the father of a daughter, Melody, and a son, Vaughan.

On the 16th of January, Prestwich died after never regaining consciousness following brain surgery.

Harvey James – Sherbet’s guitarist – career & illness

James’ first major group was the early 1970s band Mississippi, which also featured Beeb Birtles, Graham Goble and Charlie Tumahai. Mississippi made an abortive visit to the UK during 1973, but broke up there. Birtles and Goble reconstituted the band in early 1975 after their return to Australia, recruiting new members and changing the name to Little River Band.

After his return to Australia, James joined progressive rock group Ariel, with Mike Rudd and Bill Putt. He travelled to the UK with them in 1974, where they recorded their second album Rock & Roll Scars at Abbey Road Studios. He remained with Ariel until early 1975, by which time the band had added a fifth member, singer-guitarist Glynn Mason.

James shot to national prominence in Australia in early 1975, when he left Ariel to replace founding member Clive Shakespeare in the chart-topping Australian pop band Sherbet. His first recording with them was their biggest hit, "Howzat", which became an Australian #1 and made the Top 5 in the UK Singles Chart. He remained with the group until they split in 1979, but he reunited with them (alongside original guitarist Clive Shakespeare) for several Sherbet reunions. He also participated in a reunion of the second line-up of Ariel in
1998. James was an original member of The Party Boys, playing on their first two albums. James was diagnosed with lung cancer in July 2010. James died on 15 January 2011 aged 58. James is survived by his wife, Fay, sons Gabriel and Joshua, and daughter Alexandra.

Gerry Rafferty – singer & songwriter – brief career history

Gerald "Gerry" Rafferty (B.16 April 1947) was a Scottish singer and songwriter best known for his solo hits "Baker Street" and "Right Down the Line", and "Stuck in the Middle" with the band Stealers Wheel. In 1969 he became the third member of an existing folk-pop duo The Humblebums which featured future comedian Billy Connolly and Tam Harvey. Harvey left shortly afterwards and Rafferty and Connolly went on to record two acclaimed albums for Transatlantic Records as a duo. After the two decided to go their separate ways in 1971, Transatlantic owner Nathan Joseph signed Rafferty to a contract as a solo performer and Rafferty recorded his first solo album – Can I Have My Money Back. The album was a critical success but did not enjoy commercial success. In 1972, Rafferty and Joe Egan formed Stealers Wheel.

In November 2010, Rafferty was admitted to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. He died at his daughter Martha's home in Stroud, Gloucestershire on 4 January 2011 of liver failure. Other entertainers have paid tribute to Rafferty, with comedian and ex-bandmate Billy Connolly calling him "a hugely talented songwriter and singer who will be greatly missed" and musician Tom Robinson saying "His early work with Stealers Wheel was an inspiration to a whole generation of songwriters in the 70s, including me."

Acknowledgements to Wikipedia plus respective websites for all artists for information for this column.

Let’s hope that for the month of February we won’t be as busy with deaths of seventies artists. If you love your music and trivia from the seventies join me each Saturday from 11am to 1pm for “70’s Saturday”. Tank FM’s longest running show dedicated to all things seventies.

Keep Smiling,
Gary Delaforce
Committee Member
TECH CORNER

Welcome to the February edition of Tank FM’s Tech Corner.

Time has been spent in the last week in the Tank Shop located in the Kempsey Arcade. We are aiming to improve the local resources and facilities by networking all the computers and printers, as well as making significant changes to the Shop “Studio” as well.

It is still a work in progress but we are slowly ticking off tasks at the shop (without “ticking” off our loyal band of hard working volunteers!). When the network is complete, the shop will be able to print to both local printers at the shop, as well as the new planned multi-function machine up at Rudder Park.

One noticeable difference in the shop has been the removal of the old broadcast desk from the studio. In its place we have opted to locate our “OB” mixer and put it to use until it is required in the field. This too is a work in progress with additional cabling and changes required to allow multiple audio sources to be permitted to get around the limited number of line level inputs. It should also help us with pre-production work as well, as the team will have access to better quality microphone, console and monitoring facilities.

Gary Delaforce did his “70’s Saturday” show from the shop – some 14 hours after we installed the console in the studio (see him in action here through the arcade window). All went well for the first hour. Around 10 minutes into his 2nd hour, our digital link dropped out and decided not to reconnect. Fortunately the digital link box that was sending CBAA (satellite) to the shop decided to place this to air, instead of nothing. Post diagnosis of the event found the cause to be a misconfiguration of the link box on my part, so a good lesson learnt – review the base configuration more thoroughly when one upgrades the firmware in these devices! It also highlighted the fact that we need better monitoring of the off air signal within the shop, outside the studio.

Work has also commenced to erect our small tower inside the tank at Rudder Park. The tower footing, a 1m square piece of heavy galvanised steel has been securely (and I mean securely!) bolted down to the bottom of the tank floor. Hopefully by the time this edition of IYE hits the street, it may be up and waiting for an antenna or three to be relocated onto it. It also gives us an opportunity to clean up the varying lengths and quality of cable runs that feeds them, as well as check the actual antennas themselves for corrosion, rust or adverse weathering.

Until next time...

Ross
IYE readers may remember Bluey Shelton and his My Kinda Country program on Tank FM. Bluey lives in Queensland these days but that hasn't stopped him appearing on Tank FM with a weekly program. Here, in his own words, is how Bluey makes it all happen ....

Doing a program in the studio mostly is second nature. Doing a pre-recorded program some 600 odd klns away is something very different. In a studio it is all straight forward with CD players, computer and on-air mike taking you “Live” into listener’s lounge rooms.

To do my 1 hour program I first have to burn the songs from the CD to my computer via the stereo, which is hooked up to the computer, using a Sony Sound Forge Audio Studio program. After recording my songs I then connect my headset with microphone and back-announce my songs plus do station I.D.’s etc. This is done through the “Sound Recorder” program on the computer.

The 1 hour program is done in 3 segments (3 x 19 minutes) to allow for sponsor’s announcements etc.. Balancing the program can be a challenge at times because you may have 56 minutes or even 59, depending on the length of your songs.

When the whole program is on the computer I then burn it onto a RWCD and post it, as a rule 4 at a time, to cover the whole month to save on postage.

Then, when the program is scheduled to be aired you sit back and listen to your own program. In the studio you do a 1 hour program in 1 hour naturally, but when pre-recording it at home, that same 1 hour program might take you one and a half to two hours. But that is still forward progress!

Thanks, Bluey.
RW
Notice of 2011 Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, notice is hereby given that the 2011 Annual General Meeting of Macleay Valley Community FM Radio Station Incorporated will be convened at 5.30pm, sharp, on Thursday, 10th March 2011 at the Kempsey-Macleay RSL Club, York Lane, Kempsey. (Clause 26 a))

Nominations for office bearers and ordinary members will be received by the Secretary up until 5.00pm on Tuesday, 8th February 2011. (Clause 17 a) ii))

Positions to be filled are;
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Up to seven (7) ordinary members, one of whom shall be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, for the position of Indigenous Representative and, another shall be a youth member who is no older than thirty (30) years at the time of election, for the position of Youth Representative. (Clause 16 a))

Nominees are invited to submit a short profile about themselves for inclusion in the March edition of IYE. Please limit to about 200 words.

Agenda

1. Confirm the Minutes of the 2010 AGM.
2. Confirm the Minutes of any Special General Meetings held during the year.
3. Receive reports from office bearers.
5. Elect a Returning Officer.
6. Declare all positions vacant.
7. Election of office bearers.
8. General Business.

Members are reminded that fees were set at a Special General Meeting held on the 9th December 2010 and fell due on the 31st December 2010. The fee for 2011 was set at $20.

Fees must be paid prior to commencement of the Annual General meeting but will NOT be payable on the night of the Annual General Meeting.

Fees may be posted to Macleay Valley Community Radio, P.O. Box 3200, West Kempsey, 2440 or they may be paid at the Tank FM office in the Centrepoint Arcade in Kempsey, prior to 5.00pm on Thursday, 10th March 2011.

You cannot stand for office or vote at the AGM unless you are a financial member.
Mandatory Training Session

A training session has been set down for Sunday, 13th February 2011, at 1.00pm, at the Kempsey-Macleay RSL Club. The session is mandatory and presenters will not be given programs in the cycle commencing 1st March 2011 if they do not attend a full session.

The session will run from 1.00pm (sharp) to 3.30pm, at the latest.

**Agenda**

2. Audio/visual presentation from the CDROM that is a part of the new Training Manual.
3. Specialised training on dealing with flood and weather information.
4. General discussion

*Please note that the date is now Sunday the 13th February 2011 and NOT Saturday the 12th as originally notified.*

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**From the keeper of the purse**

During 2010, TANKFM has made a number of major purchases that put a dent in the bank account. During the 2010 financial year, TANKFM has paid out more than $5,300 for improvements to our on-air capabilities. The $5,300 does not include expenditures from the CBF and Coastline Credit Union grants.

An expert panel beater knows how to make dents disappear from your car, TANKFM’s own “panel beater”, Richard Kinny was a great help in removing the dents from our bank account. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that TANKFM has finished up the 2010 financial year with no outstanding bills, all presented cheques had cleared and we still had a few pennies in the bank. Not as many as I would’ve liked, but more than I expected. It appears as though I did something right, I’ve contacted Jo Curtin, at CBF and she is pleased with the documentation regarding the grant acquittal.

As soon as I am able to complete the reconciliation of our January 2011 bank statement, the books will be presented to the auditor.

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**Notes from the Training committee**

A few weeks ago two teenagers visited the office and requested membership and training forms, hopefully we will have a couple of new presenters in a few months time.

Since these notes were started we’ve had a young lady become a member and will start training ASAP

Rick Wilson has been slaving over a number of training documents, and driving a few of the members nuts in the process. I don’t know if he is working on revision 15 or 52. Well, the documents are just about finished (please be finished) and the training committee is ready to give it a test drive. I’ve ordered and received a generic training program from NSW Department of Education and Training. I will be giving a copy to a couple of our younger presenters for evaluation. Hopefully, if all works well, this training program will be a supplement to TANKFM’s own training program.

R.H. Hoffman
Treasurer