

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR 24/25 FOR MILLICENT COMMUNITY ACCESS RADIO INC

MEETING HELD, 11th DECEMBER 2025

ST. ALPHONSUS HALL, MILLICENT.

A very warm welcome to you tonight and thank you for attending our second Annual General Meeting, it is with immense pride that I once again deliver this report as the Station's Chairman.

Over the past 12 months, Millicent Community Access Radio has continued to serve as a vital voice for our community, fostering engagement, inclusion, and local pride. Building on the momentum and achievements highlighted at our last Annual General Meeting, this report outlines our work over the past 12 months which should serve as a solid foundation for another prosperous year in 2026.

Once again, this year, our volunteers have been at the cornerstone of everything we do. Their dedication and passion for the station have not only kept us on the air but has made us stronger and more connected to our community. Whether they have been behind the microphone, handling administrative duties, or supporting us in countless other ways, their contributions have been invaluable. It is through their tireless efforts, enthusiasm, and commitment in turning our vision into reality that makes them special. Their selflessness and hard work are also what make our programming rich, diverse, and truly special.

Like any family, it is true that we have had a few challenges this year, but we will continue to work with our cohort of volunteers to ensure they have the best experience they can have when volunteering with us. However, we also recognise that sometimes conflict arises and while we can't resolve every issue to each party's satisfaction, that is ok if there continues to be a spirit of service and camaraderie within the team, for us, it will never be personal.

So, on behalf of the Board and our listening audience, thank you for the countless hours you have devoted, for your unwavering support, and for being the driving force that helps us deliver quality content to our listeners. We are deeply grateful for your time, your energy, and your passion.

To our sponsors, your customers are our listeners, and your unwavering support is the cornerstone of our on-air operations. Your belief in our station and your financial contributions make it possible for us to continue offering exceptional programming,

investing in new projects and equipment, and reaching out to our community in more meaningful ways. Your commitment to supporting local community radio helps us to amplify voices, share stories, and foster connections that enrich our community, and we trust that your businesses benefit from this exposure.

You may not be aware, but we are spending approximately \$3000 a month keeping the station on air, and sponsorship will continue to be a key focus for us next year. Sponsorship is also supplemented by our own fundraising efforts and this year, Spicks and Specks and Rock on the Rails generated significant income to allow us to continue to develop our infrastructure and retire debt. A huge thanks to Jack Lane and Chris Copeland for their work in our fundraising area this year, not only did we raise much needed funds for the station, but we have also improved revenue into the town, showcased new and emerging young talent and raised the profile of the station. To that end, Jack Lane was a runner up finalist in the national CBAA fundraising awards this year which is an outstanding effort given the number of Community Radio stations in Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge all the sponsors and service clubs who dug deep this year to make sure both events were a resounding success either through cash or through the provision of in-kind goods and services or the loan of equipment, we could not have done it without your support. As it is the last year of seed funding from Wattle Range Council, it is appropriate for me to acknowledge their contribution to Rock on the Rails over the past 3 years. Your funding ignited the spark which we maintained. Thank you for supporting local community events through this program.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we are blessed to have fundraising partners who understand the value of community radio and the impact it can have on our community. Your sponsorship not only sustains our station but also helps us to grow and innovate, ensuring that we remain a vibrant and essential part of our community and we will talk about that in more detail when I present the financial report a bit later.

To our regular listeners who have been with us since the beginning, thank you for your loyalty and for making our station a part of your daily lives. Your consistent presence has been a constant reminder of why we do what we do. And to those who have joined us more recently, a big welcome to the family. We are thrilled to have you with us, and we look forward to continuing to earn your trust and support.

To my fellow Board members, since you were re-elected to your positions, some 12 months ago, you have been the guiding force, providing not only strategic direction but also unwavering support to me in my duties as Chairman. Your dedication, wisdom, and

commitment have been crucial in shaping our vision, overcoming challenges, and achieving our objectives.

Your roles have been diverse and demanding, whether it was navigating complex and sometimes emotive decisions and actions, ensuring the stations financial stability, undertaking major fundraising activities, or fostering relationships with key stakeholders.

Each of you has contributed in unique ways, and together, we have formed a solid foundation upon which our station continues to build. Against that background, I would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of Jack Lane and Paul McRobert who are retiring from the Board this year and welcome Stephanie Barton and Michelle Lane who have come onto the Board to replace them, both new members have a great range of skills which we believe will add value to the role and functions of the Board.

This year I was privileged to be a keynote speaker at the SACBA conference talking about station resilience and growth and arising out of that talk, I am now assisting two other rural stations who are struggling to stay on air at the current time. It is certainly a tough environment in community radio, particularly in regional Australia and I am pleased to report that they are now seeing some much-needed improvements to their operations.

Also, this year, we were fortunate to receive a grant from Bendigo Bank that allowed us to purchase an AED device which will be very useful if we happen to have a cardiac event at the station and thanks to Craig Press for mounting the device and the support board to the wall.

This year we will be applying for grants to update our IT infrastructure as we need to replace at least 8 computers that will not run Windows 11 and we need to purchase new software and anti-virus software. We are now recording all our programs, and we will therefore also need to purchase additional network assisted storage to enable us to retain content for longer periods so lots of expenditure coming up for our little station which should keep our fundraising team very busy.

Finally, we look forward to the 25/26 financial year with great excitement as we continue to grow our listening audience through more diverse program content, increase our on-air presenter numbers to provide more local content until at least 9 PM each night as well as weekends, increase our station sponsors and improve our critical infrastructure. Our OB equipment will be christened in the new year, and we look forward to taking 5THEFM to the streets as we have already had one request to stream the LIONS convention to be held in Millicent later in the year.

I now dedicate this annual report and financial statements to your perusal and here's to many more years of shared stories, great music, community engagement, and mutual growth. Thank you for being a crucial part of our stations journey.

David Walshaw

Board Chairman

09-12-2025