



BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC BROADCASTING SOCIETY  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

Presented to the 23rd Annual General Meeting December 2009

ABN 19 435 034 543

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Ken Quinnell

**Vice-president**

Francis Dutton

**Secretary**

David Jess (until 8/10/09)

Tom Papas (acting from 9/10/06)

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Scott Linstid

**Program Coordinator**

Tom Papas

**Fundraising Coordinator**

Ken Quinnell

**Publicity Coordinator**

Ken Quinnell

**Committee Members**

Violet Lake

Richard Frank

**Public Officer**

Francis Dutton

**Dispute Resolution Officer**

David Bowden

**Membership Officer**

Peter Karsten (until 5/12/09)

**Hon Life Members**

Betty Chialvo  
Geoff Fanning  
Ken Quinnell

**Life Governors**

Johnnie Fuller  
Francis Dutton

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**Auditor**

Peter J. Shoemark

**Insurers**

AON Risk Services Australia Limited

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# President's Report 2009

This has been an extremely busy year for BLU FM and a reasonably good one.

***Treasurer.*** A very special thank goes to **Scott Linstid** who keeps our accounts, pays our bills, and generally keeps track of our financial affairs. This task is the bedrock of all aspects of BLU FM's affairs and we are very fortunate to have Scott looking after it for us.

***Auditor.*** **Peter Shoemark** is thanked for completing our audit promptly and for his professional advice. Peter will continue as our auditor next year.

***Insurance.*** We have signed up to an insurance scheme negotiated by the CBAA for the sector through our existing agency AON. This reduces our premiums and we have, at the same time, increased our public liability cover.

***Programming.*** We thank **Tom Papas** for looking after programming this year. Tom has taken on quite a lot of responsibility over the year and has had the added duty of managing a waiting list for program, the first time we have had such a list.

***Streaming.*** Providing a high-quality stereo stream from our Website has greatly increased our listeners. **Peter Hoskin** is hosting this service for us and we thank Peter for his generosity.

***National Radio News.*** We have continued to take NRN throughout the year and this has proved itself with listeners. I continued to serve on the NRN Board as subscriber representative.

***Satellite service.*** We experienced satellite reception problems over the Christmas-New Year period last year. This was caused by moisture getting into the cable via a hairline split. This has been repaired and we thank Ivan of **Omega Electrical Services** for his assistance with this problem. We had a more recent problem with satellite reception which was caused by a presenter fiddling with equipment.

***Talking Newspaper.*** This important program has been made possible by the dedication of presenters **Barbara Sharp** and **John Lister**. We thank them for the really good job they do of this program.

***Gig Guide.*** In the past few weeks we have re-established our local gig guide thanks to **Violet Lake**. This is now available for music presenters to use as an on-air read and it will be scheduled on our running sheets in the coming year.

***Community Noticeboard.*** Thanks to **Colin Semmler** and **Francis Dutton** for preparing this for us each week. Thanks also to **Violet Lake** who has also incorporated CNB into our Website.

***Community Radio Network.*** We have provided a number of programs to the CRN this year. The radio drama series Full Moon Over Faulconbridge was broadcast nationally. We thank **Victor Spiegel** and all who participated in this project. **Tom Papas** and **Gary Seeger** had their program Martini Hour accepted for the service where it continues to build a national audience. **Graeme Robinson** has been participating in the presentation of Good Morning Country from the CRN studio in Alexandria. **Barry O'Sullivan's** "A Jazz Hour" has been a feature of CRN for many years and continued throughout 2009.

**Australian music.** We are committed to support of Australian music and are required to play 25% Australian music. In past years we have achieved as much as 45%. This year, a rough estimate of our local music content is that we achieved 34%. We greatly value the programs that present a high percentage of Australian music – they are indispensable to us.

**AMRAP music.** Thanks to **Violet Lake** for taking on the distribution and administration of the CDs that come to us from AMRAP.

**AirIT.** Presenting Australian music has become easier with the introduction of AirIT service by AMRAP. This expands the availability of a much wider range of music with a great many record labels participating and others signing on regularly. If you are not part of the AirIT team, we encourage you to sign up right now.

**C-Pod.** We had a number of presenters register for the Cpod service via the CBAA although they do not appear to have made much use of it. This is a great way to spread the content of your program – interviews, opinion pieces, etc. - to other community radio stations.

**Toot Your Own Horn.** We were successful in this year's Toot You Own Horn competition with a piece about our support for radio drama over the years. You can read it on the CBOonline website – there is a link from our Website. Thanks to **Tom Papas** and **Betty Chialvo** for contributing to this.

**Youth presenters.** Congratulations to **Tom Oriti**, who has broadcast with us since he was ten years of age, for gaining a cadetship at the ABC. Tom continues to broadcast with us. Congratulations also to **Matt Fitz** who broadcast with us for almost five year until early last year, for his award of a youth OA.

**2009 Battle of the Bands.** This year's Battle of the Bands was a major success with 18 local bands competing. We thank **Jack Thompson** and **Sean Glassford** of Hotel Gearin, **Michael Smith** of Drum Media, **Michael Chugg** of Chugg Entertainment and **John Stuart** of Sound Heaven Studios for their support. We also thank members **Richard Frank**, **Brianna Peterson** and **Katie Wilson** for comparing and judging.

**2009 Singer-Songwriter Challenge.** The Singer-Songwriter Challenge was also a success with 27 local singer-songwriters competing. We thank **Jack Thompson** and **Sean Glassford** of Hotel Gearin, **Michael Smith** of Drum Media, **Michael Chugg** of Chugg Entertainment and **John Stuart** of Sound Heaven Studios for their support. We also thank member **Richard Frank** for comparing and judging..

**BLU FM Acoustic Lounge.** This ran for ten weeks at Hotel Gearin presenting new local music. We thank **Jack Thompson**, **Sean Glassford** and **Amy Parkinson** for their encouragement and support.

**BluPlug 3 compilation album.** The third of our compilation albums in the BluPlug series was produced this year. These albums represent Blue Mountains music to the community radio sector and are distributed via AMRAP. We have also had a number of tracks from it scheduled on Australian Internet Radio. We thank **Violet Lake** for taking this on and developing it. The next one will be in the first half of 2010.

**48-Hour Film Project.** This event continues to grow with 28 teams (about 380 filmmakers) completing films this year, state wide. The winning entry, the Living With Ees team, will go to Las Vegas to compete internationally in March. **Tom Papas** and his team have done a great job of building this event which will now become an organization in its own right.

**Footbeat Festival.** This two-day environment and arts festival was held at the Wentworth Falls TAFE campus in November and attracted strong community participation. This is now a permanent fixture of the mountains calendar. TAFE are keen to develop this festival in future years and an increasing number of community organisations are committing for 2010. **Tom Papas** is thanked for steering this initiative which is now an organization in its own right.

**Winter Magic Festival.** We supported Winter Magic Festival with an outside broadcast and produced a compilation CD of the artists appearing at the festival which was distributed through AMRAP. Thanks to **Brad Bridger** for organising this.

**Garage Sale.** This important fundraiser turned out to be a fun day. Thanks to everyone who turned up and contributed goods. **Francis Dutton** provided the venue. **Violet Lake** did a huge amount of the organizing assisted by **David Bowden** and **Tom Papas**. **Graeme Robinson** and **Peter Smith** transported goods for us.

**Cleaning.** **Jonathan Roberts** has been handling general cleaning and doing a superb job of it. We also thank **Polly Beard** and **Violet Lake** who were assisting with this earlier in the year. Thanks to our vice-president **Francis Dutton** who does our painting for us as well as handling our recycling and garbage disposal. We also thank **Peter Smith** who has contributed his carpentry skills to a number of jobs throughout the year.

**College building.** Work has started at last on a full refurbishment of the college. While this has no direct affect on us we will have access to new toilet facilities.

**Air conditioning.** The air conditioning was repaired following the imposition of a small levy on presenters and has been working well.

**Access ramp.** We have received development approval for work on the front of the building to provide disability access and this work will be undertaken during the coming year. We especially thank **Nigel Bell** of Ecodesign Architects & Consultants for his very generous assistance with this undertaking. It is greatly appreciated.

**Membership.** A very special thanks goes out to **Peter Karsten** who has been responsible for our membership and access records throughout the year. Peter came to us through the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre. He has been with us for two years and has done a great job of the membership and access records.

**Sponsorship.** Government sponsorships have continues via the agencies RPH Australia and Spots & Space. We are also receive some sponsorship through 4 People Media. **Violet Lake** has taken on the job of local sponsorship sales and has had some success. We will be focusing on developing local sponsorship in the coming year.

**Computers/IT.** A very big thanks goes to **Peter Hoskin** who has stabilised our computers during the year. We are now running the studio computers on Linux system which has proved itself. Our only problems now are from people tinkering and we are gradually resolving this problem. A new presenter **Joel Pearson** is now assisting with computer upgrading and we expect to make real progress in the coming few months.

**Telephones.** We have introduced VOIP to our telephones which has reduced costs quite considerably.

**Website.** Thanks go to **Violet Lake** and **David Bowden** for their work on our Website. We

are hoping to be able to provide each program with its own page during the coming year. This will make it easier for presenters to communicate with listeners via email, blogs, Twitter, etc.

**Technical.** **Gerry Nixon** has been gradually working on a long list of improvements to both studios. Gerry has been a godsend to us. We have prepared a studio plan with a long list of improvements to both studios and Gerry will be working his way through these in the coming year.

**Telephone interface.** We thank **Tim Treager** for repairing this equipment for us. We have had some problems with the re-installation and as a consequence we have continued to rely on the Codecs for telephone interviews. The interface is at the top of our agenda for attention in the coming year.

**Antenna.** We have been looking at installing a new antenna to improve reception. **Brian Stokes** has been investigating this for us and we thank him for his work. We hope to give this priority in the first half of the new year.

**Marketing/Publicity.** We have had a very good run in the Blue Mountains Gazette during the year. We do need someone to handle publicity, promotions and marketing in the coming year. We need to increase the circulation of our program guide and ensure that we have good photographs of our studio and events.

**Office assistance.** **Marilyn Krause** provided very valuable office assistance over the past few months. Unfortunately, Marilyn is moving from the area. We thank her most sincerely for her time with us.

**Running sheets.** Preparing the running sheets each week is a somewhat thankless task. **John Stephenson** turns up as regular as clockwork to do these and we are most grateful for his assistance. John does an excellent job and any imperfections in the running sheets can be attributed to me.

**Secretary.** Thanks to **David Jess** who took on the job of Hon. Secretary during the year. David moved from the area in October and consequently resigned.

**Work experience students.** During the year we had five work experience students - **Emma Barnett, Keegan Thomson, Sarah Jackson, Rowan Green** and **Laura Ritchie** - with us from schools and colleges. Some of these students remained with us as presenters.

**General training.** **Tom Papas** has handled basic training of new presenters throughout the year. We are grateful to Tom for the work he has put into this. An aim in the new year is to increase training in our production studio.

**Accredited training.** Our second lot of sessions comprising four units was made available this year. There was something of a delay with the start because we waited for **Gerald Nixon's** accreditation to come through. There were ten enrolments – two dropped out and eight completed the four units satisfactorily. We plan to offer four further units in the first half of 2010 with Gerry as tutor. We thank the Community Broadcasting Foundation of Australia for funding for this initiative.

**Disputes.** For the first time in many years we had a dispute between presenters about change-over procedures. This was resolved quickly and satisfactorily. Several instances of breaches of station policy came to notice during the year and these were resolved in discussion with the presenters involved. A presenter was disciplined for offensive on-air comments about a local business that had received several complaints. A short time later, the presenter chose to resign his program. Although none of these disputes lasted more than a moment, we thank our disputes

resolution officer **David Bowden**. It was good to know that David was there should any of these disputes become protracted.

**Legal action.** During the year we had the threat of libel action involving a presenter. This was a serious matter and the presenter, after failing to heed the committee, was removed from air and remains off air. We thank **Daryl Browne** of the firm Browne Linkenbagh, solicitors, for acting for us in this matter - his advice and assistance was greatly appreciated by the committee.

**The Book.** One of the things we have not had is a Book of how that station operates. I have done quite a bit of work on this during the year and will complete it in the first half of 2010. Read in conjunction with the CBAA Handbook and other resources it will be everything future committees will need to successfully run the station.

**Ken Quinnell**

*December 2009*