

Technical Report Mansfield Community Radio Annual General Meeting 25/08/2019

We mentioned last year that there was progress in the technical development of Mansfield Community Radio and it is well underway although delayed a little more than we would like.

1. We have been using the Tieline "Via" for outside broadcasts which was purchased last year, either with the caravan or on its own which gives us total flexibility.
2. A new 600 watt transmitter has been purchased for the Paps and is awaiting installation which should occur next month. Finally the Mansfield Council has approved the purchase of a new communications system and a new frequency has been allocated which will remove the interference problem which will enable Mansfield Community Radio to move to full transmitted power. A new antenna and channel filter has been purchased for the Paps and a day will be set aside for the installation of this and the new transmitter. It will be necessary to go off air for this process and there will be plenty of notice of when this event will occur.
3. The Tolmie rebroadcast transmitter tower and equipment has been installed and has been successfully transmitting. There are a few items to tidy up to complete the installation with addition of a UPS and proper earthing panels.
4. We have been successful in obtaining a grant to build a rebroadcast site at Frenchman's Gap to service primarily Woods Point but this offers some challenges. A used tower similar to that used at Tolmie has been obtained by John Coffey and is currently being reworked locally. We are awaiting the formalities of the handover of the proposed site from the CFA. We will look at this installation towards the end of the year.
5. We are slowly working through the rebuild at the studios with the main studio nearing completion. New equipment is to be installed to work towards a direct two way broadcast connection with UGFM using an Ubiquity microwave system and this installation will be commenced at the Paps during the major works and at the studios.
6. The Outside Broadcast caravan has been parked at the back of the studios so that we can commence installation of equipment in the van. This will entail cabling and permanent positioning of equipment to enable quick set up once on site for an outside broadcast.
7. As mentioned in my last report last year we were expecting to receive a bill for electricity for the use of the transmitter site. This has been received but was for three years which hit us a bit hard.

I appreciate the technical assistance of Keith Rogers and Rob Voice who is having a mountain of work and time negotiating the connection to the NBN with the possibility of ADSL being cut-off in November and other networking issues at the studios.

Ray Sheldrick
Technical Co-ordinator