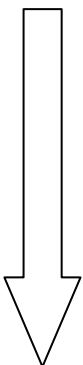


We apologise for having to bring you this month's newsletter in PDF format. Unfortunately the webmaster has been a little busy the last couple of months helping out with production. We will bring you your regular newsletter format next newsletter



# 2003 - Praise God!

- March**
- 3 month Temporary Community Broadcast Licence approved
  - Demonstration C D released
- June**
- Deb Bye left her job as ABC Manager to start as Life FM's volunteer Station Manager
- July**
- Committee of Management determines that \$20,000 must be raised by August if the target broadcast commencement was to be achieved
  - Major fundraiser organized by Sale's Christian Outreach Centre – raised over \$57,000 in memberships, donations and interest free loans, enabling the purchase of Life FM's transmitter from Italy – it's now 'full steam ahead' as the preparations reach frenetic pace
  - Life FM's new logo was launched
  - Allen Moore commenced full-time work as Life FM's Volunteer Business Manager
  - An office was rented in Traralgon using funds generously donated by a member – this is being used as a base for Sales / Valley related activities – not staffed full-time but will also double as a 'satellite studio' when infrastructure is in place
- August**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> group seeking the licence for 103.9 withdraws from the process, leaving Life FM as the only aspirant
- September**
- Negotiations commenced with the Australian Broadcasting Authority to extend the existing three month Temporary Community Broadcast Licence given that the other contender has withdrawn
  - Contract negotiations with Broadcast Australia commence in relation to placement of Life FM's transmitter at Mt. Tassie, using the same antenna as ABC Local Radio, JJJ & Classic FM
  - ABA agrees to extend the TCBL to 12 months instead of 3 months
  - The Committee of Management authorizes the purchase of the transmitter
  - Broadcast Australia agrees to allow Life FM site-share with the ABC at Mt. Tassie for a fee of \$32,500 paid quarterly in advance
  - 1<sup>st</sup> site-inspection at Mt. Tassie by Life FM's project management team
  - Life FM's 1<sup>st</sup> Sales Representative – Danni Ford – is selected by an interview panel
  - Wes Jay and Steve Baker come from Melbourne and Geelong to assist Deb with Production preparation – many late nights for all
- October**
- Further renovations of Sale offices commence for the Station Manager and Business Manager who had been working out of the studio and production rooms, now needed for broadcast / production functions – this work was undertaken by Sam Jones, Ros Biddiscombe, David Baxter & Craig Maultby
  - Roger Pendrick and Tim Sargent, all of whom volunteered their time at various stages for various tasks
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Transmitter is transported to and installed at Mt. Tassie together with telephone & Codec lines to link the studio to the transmitter and a special Filter to ensure Life FM does not interfere with the ABC services. Site works overseen by John Aitken (Broadcast Engineer) with help from Roger Pendrick (Telephone/cables technician), Tony Biddiscombe (Radio Technician) O'Donnell Griffin Electrical Contractors and Allen Moore (Life FM's liaison with Broadcast Australia/Site Manager/Telstra & general roustabout)
  - Filter fails due to poor construction and has to be rushed to Melbourne by Allen for repair and return
- 'Switch-on' date is deferred as a result of the Filter failure and new commissioning date must now be negotiated with Broadcast Australia & ABC who has to agree for their services to be shut down while we 'connect' to the antenna – a convoluted and tense process
  - Sales Representative Danni Ford fractures her ankle and is out of action until 2004
  - 29<sup>th</sup> of October – Further site access finally approved for Mt. Tassie and our technical test commences at about 2:18am after successful 'connection and power-up' of the Transmitter and Filter – Tony Biddiscombe commissioning the service with help from Allen Moore and instructions from John Aitken via phone – he could not attend from Sydney on this occasion
  - 31<sup>st</sup> of October – Annual General Meeting – Rules of Association changed to allow for our application for Deductible Gift Recipient status to proceed
- November**
- Station Manager Deb Bye and I/T Supervisor Beth Harris have a lightening tour of a number of Community Radio Stations in Queensland who are using the same Production / Broadcast software as Life FM – an invaluable but exhausting trip which enabled them to upgrade their skills base ready for the mammoth task of putting music & programs to air
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Nov: Telephone connection between Sale Studio and Mt. Tassie disconnected as it was costing \$1000 a week and not providing the 'on-air' quality we anticipated, due to unexpected poor quality Telstra lines between Traralgon and Mt. Tassie – now have the looped programs in-putted direct to the transmitter on-site with regular trips to update same
- December**
- Looped music, Community Service Announcements, and Sponsorship Spots progressively introduced as the Deb Bye, Beth Harris production team frantically commission the Studio / Production end of things during this test phase with very basic equipment
  - Additional volunteers are co-opted to assist with various duties but the task primarily remains the responsibility of Deb and Beth at this time who are continuing to grow the system processes and upgrade their skills – a teeth gritting but highly productive time
  - Technical assessment undertaken by Tony Biddiscombe (Radio Technician) to establish if a microwave link between the Studio and Mt. Tassie to replace the codec (phone) link is technically feasible – it is ! Exact cost to be determined but is now a high priority to enable direct programming, without having to travel to the transmitter
- \*\* This is just a snap-shot of the work that has taken place this year and does not truly do justice to the work-load undertaken by Life FM's volunteers – for example, we have not even mentioned the dozens of deputations conducted by Deb and some Committee Members throughout the Latrobe Valley. Since the major fund-raiser in July, the pace has been absolutely hectic and the priority has necessarily been getting us 'to-air', consequently there has not been a newsletter since September, but regular updates are listed on the website at [www.lifefm.com.au](http://www.lifefm.com.au) .**

# what our listeners are saying

Sounding good in **Mirboo North, Leongatha and Korumburra**

Congratulations to LIFE FM, Christian Radio in South Gippsland - what a blessing. I am having trouble getting a clear and consistent signal in Leongatha - especially in the car.  
CAN YOU PLEASE TURN UP THE POWER!

It is fantastic - God is now on the airwaves in this heavenly part of Australia, Thankyou so much.

From **Nambrok**: I'm really enjoying the music. It's great not to have all the "I want" and "gimme" songs - very encouraging.

"We were thrilled to hear that LifeFM can be heard in **Bairnsdale**. That's great; we want to support the work there."

I'm coming to **Paynesville** for the Holidays and was delighted to find out about your radio station. I'd love to listen when I'm there late December.

From Geoff in **Adelaide**. "I consider Christian radio one of the greatest ministry tools available. Although I can't listen your station, nor the Brisbane, Sydney, or Perth stations, I still want to support you all when I can. Keep up the good work and be assured of my prayers for your station."

Greetings from **Polska**! We pray for you and praise God for the faith challenge that you are facing. Our God is able.

From **Traralgon**. I am thrilled at the prospect of a Christian Radio Station in Gippsland. I look forward to being able to listen to uplifting music and hear discussions on relevant issues in life today, both globally and more locally.

Fantastic, and finally. Have been searching my radio dial for weeks. Finally you are here and coming through loud and clear to Sth Gippsland town of **Dumbalk**. News is spreading hard and fast that you are on. Congratulations and a huge thank you for giving us such a wonderful entertainment and teaching medium. Prayers and thanksgiving are being continued for your prosperity in Gippsland.

From **Warragul**. "...I know I'm young, but I'd like just to help out... and it would be really good for young people if you have young people working with you

From **Gormandale**. You are all doing a great job, and what a great program that I know will become even better. This is just what we need to reach out to other people.

From **Moe**. "I stumbled on your radio station the other day whilst out in the car. I just wanted to tell you how grateful I am that there is now a station in Gippsland I can listen to without DJ's telling crude jokes or swearing and one that play music that lifts my Spirit.

I have lived in Gippsland for most of my life and love the area and its people. There are many people whom the message of hope and encouragement via Life FM programming would bring great comfort. The value to the communities of Gippsland of a 24 hour Christian radio giving hope to its listeners is priceless and immeasurable. Life FM will make a difference in Gippsland.

From **Stratford**. Life FM will be great outreach to the Christian community and even the general Gippsland community.

**Morwell**. Just a letter to let you know we are very pleased at the prospect of having Life FM radio broadcast across the Gippsland region

As a resident of **Sale**, I am contacting you with my views on why a community radio station such as Life FM should exist in Gippsland. There would be many 'positives' to the creation of such a station...