



Annual Report 2022-2023



Turning Print Into Sound

Canberra 1125 AM

Wagga Wagga 89.5FM

Junee 99.5 FM

DAB+ 1RPH

www.radio1rph.org.au

On the Community Radio Plus App

On the Tune In Radio App

Print Handicapped Radio of the ACT Inc

ABN 30 504 588 789

808 Barton Highway

Gungahlin ACT 2912

Tel: (02) 6241 4076

Email: admin@radio1rph.org.au

www.radio1rph.com.au

[November 2023](#)

Contents

1. President's report	4
Forty Years of Radio 1RPH	4
Community radio	4
2. Management Committee Activities	5
3. Radio 1RPH Administration	6
Radio 1RPH Station Manager's Reflection	6
Finances	7
4. Programs	7
Programming highlights.....	8
Book readings	9
Wagga Wagga and Junee Broadcasts	9
Christian Programs.....	10
5. Volunteers	11
6. Technical Report	11
Digital Media Delivery	11
Words from Ben Signor	13
7. In memorium	14

1. President's report

I am pleased to present this annual report of the activities of Radio 1RPH for the 2022-2023 year. This report covers station operations of Radio 1RPH from November 2022 to November 2023 and the financial operations of Radio 1RPH for the 2022-2023 financial year. I have prepared this document as a report for this meeting. A formal annual report will be prepared and published on the Radio 1RPH website.

Forty Years of Radio 1RPH

This report marks 40 years of Radio 1RPH. For 65 of our volunteers, a highlight of the year was the recognition of this achievement through a morning tea reception at Government House hosted by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. Our Patron the Honourable Margaret Reid AO joined us for this occasion. The reception is a memory which we will all treasure. This is especially so for our older volunteers who have been with us for over 30 years. Radio 1RPH is privileged to have the personal support of the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley and to have the 40 years of our service for people with a print disability recognised in this way.

Robert Altamore OAM CM

Community radio

It was an honour to serve as President on the Management Committee here at Radio 1RPH during the first half of 2023. Unfortunately, some unexpected developments impacting my personal health later in the year meant that I needed to pare back much of what I was taking on in all areas of my life, as the cumulative demands were having a detrimental effect.

Regrettably, one of the engagements I needed to step back from was the President role at the station. It was a very difficult decision, as during my time in the role I gained a clear, nuanced and overall very unique perspective of what the station stands for and works towards.

From my perspective there is an exciting future ahead for Radio 1RPH. Its success depends upon the quality content it puts to air (which it does exceptionally well) and its engagement with the community. Nowadays there are many more means via which content can be accessed, but being a voice for and in the community is something that a community radio station like ours can uniquely excel at.

Community radio can be accessed for free with basic equipment. It does not require the listener to sign up for an account. It does not gather, analyse or sell the listener's personal information or listening preferences every time it is accessed.

Most importantly, community radio exists on the dial next to commercial and national stations, but its content is produced by the people in the community it serves. That is important in my view, as it is more accurately representative of a community. It reflects, connects and represents a community.

I will remain actively involved with Radio 1RPH going forward, particularly in the areas of technical support and development of my pet project Noise Control Radio (an overnight soundscape program from 23:00 every night, mentioned later in this report), as well as DAB+ specific matters at the station.

Radio 1RPH is an absolute treasure in community broadcasting and broadcasting in general. It serves as a valuable resource for, and service to, the community, and is something everyone involved, should be proud of.

Here's to another 40 years.

Liam Jordan

2. Management Committee Activities

At the 2022 annual general meeting Liam Jordan was elected as President of Radio 1RPH. In August 2023 Liam resigned as President for personal reasons. I thank Liam for his contribution as President and his continuing contribution as a Committee member, regular Sunday morning presenter and to our technical operations. I have taken over as President to get us to our annual general meeting today. Liam's resignation as President and transfer to the Committee necessitated a number of other changes to the Committee. Ben Signor moved from Committee member to Vice-President and Maree Caulfield joined the Committee. Llois Cutts remained as Secretary and James Daniels remained as Treasurer. Malcolm Walker as Technical Director and Amelia McKenzie as Program Director continued their valuable contributions in these roles which under the June 2022 Constitutional amendments were no longer Committee positions.

At the Committee level, the year has been one of challenges as we settled in a new Committee and new Manager and put in place new financial procedures. The implementation of administrative and financial arrangements did not always go smoothly but we are now bedding them down.

A volunteer Operations group has been established to support the Manager and deal with day-to-day matters allowing the Committee to focus on its management responsibilities.

I thank the Committee members for their helpful contributions and their support for both Liam and I during the year. I particularly thank Maree for her personal help to me with grant applications and acquittals and her assistance to James, Llois and the administration team in finance and administrative matters. Llois has provided excellent administrative support to the Committee with accurate minutes and attention to detail with correspondence and membership records. Llois is stepping down as Secretary at this meeting. We thank her and wish her well.

Ben is also stepping down from the Committee but will continue to represent us on the Board of Disability Media Australia.

Robert Altamore OAM CM

3. Radio 1RPH Administration

Yvette Ho joined Radio 1RPH as Manager in November 2022. Yvette is transitioning us to working in teams to support the various functions required by the station including administration, finance, programs and technical and brought them together in the Operations Group. Yvette has also established sound working relations with other station managers and key organisations including the Community Broadcasting Foundation, the Community Broadcasting Association and RPH Australia.

Andy Lythgoe continues to produce and edit our programs and place them in the program automation system for broadcast. Andy's experience and knowledge of station operations has also been helpful to volunteers, staff and Committee members.

In early 2023, Crystal Clitheroe joined our staff as a production assistant working with Andy.

I record our appreciation of Yvette, Andy, Crystal and volunteers Roy Jeeves, Naomi O'Callaghan, Wendy Lim, David Moncrieff and Melissa Dingwell.

Radio 1RPH Station Manager's Reflection

As the Station Manager of Radio 1RPH since November 2022, this year has been a journey marked by numerous challenges and triumphs. The heart of our success lies in the resilience of our dedicated volunteers who, in the face of adversity, have consistently stepped up, contributed, and supported the station and each other.

In 2023, we found ourselves at a crossroads, needing to redefine our relevance to the print disability community and enhance our engagement with the broader community in Canberra and its surroundings. The privilege to serve Canberra, Wagga Wagga, and Junee is not taken lightly, and our commitment to doing so for a long time requires continuous innovation and relevance. The recent RPHA conference reaffirmed that our vision aligns with the passion to serve the print disability community effectively.

Throughout the year, our community engagement efforts have been diverse, including participation in events such as the CBS Technical Expo, Canberra Disability Expo, National Capital Orchestra Anniversary Concert, CIT visits, Dickson College work experience programs, and collaborations with local businesses on the northside. While proud of our achievements, we aspire to do more, necessitating the involvement of individuals willing to commit to one or two projects a year.

Our volunteer base has expanded, with individuals not only excelling in reading and presenting but also showcasing exceptional skills in various areas. Witnessing their willingness to go above and beyond amid life's challenges is truly inspiring. Recognizing the need for streamlined operations, we have established teams in areas such as administration and operations, rostering, and special projects, with plans to expand into business and marketing, accounts, technical, maintenance, and more. The formation of teams aligns with the vision to ensure that no one within our Radio 1RPH family faces their responsibilities alone. The station management is committed to supporting these teams, fostering collaboration, and enhancing the overall experience of working together. After all, shared responsibilities are lighter burdens and lead to a more enjoyable, collaborative work environment. A special acknowledgment goes out to the remarkable individuals in the administration and operations team, formed in June 2023. Their dedication, resilience, responsibility, and positive personalities have been the driving force that keeps the station operational and forms the very heart

of our community. Overcoming challenges, both anticipated and unforeseen, this team has consistently sorted through tasks, proving that their commitment is unwavering.

As we continue our journey as a community broadcasting station in Canberra, serving the print disability sector, our collective goal is to keep evolving and serving better. Let us persevere and strive together as a community broadcaster, committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those we are privileged to serve. Thank you all for being part of Radio 1RPH.

Yvette Ho

Finances

Goal three of our strategic plan requires us to endeavour to become financially self-sufficient and sustainable.

The outcome for the 2022-2023 financial year was an operating surplus of \$34929 this was due to a very successful outcome of our CBF grant application for that year where we received \$117,920, and delays in spending the grant funds allocated for that year. However, these factors together with a very poor outcome of our funding application for the 2023-2024 financial year, will mean that Radio 1RPH is likely to incur a substantial operating deficit in the coming year. The Committee will make every effort to minimise the deficit by controlling expenditure, seeking other sources of income and commencing preparations for the 2024-2025 CBF round 1 funding application to secure the funding outcome we need.

Radio 1RPH participated in the Hands Up for Canberra giving day in March 2023 in which the funds we raised were matched by Hands Across Canberra. Radio 1RPH also received a steady stream of donations through the Hands Across Canberra website during the year. In the 2022-2023 year Radio 1RPH received donations of \$15,526.75 through Hands Across Canberra.

Radio 1RPH also received \$3390 from the Canberra Southern Cross Club as a participant in its Community Rewards Payment Program. We thank those members, volunteers and supporters who nominated us as their preferred organisation for this program.

Radio 1RPH was the nominated charity for the Canberra Bridge Club for the 2022-2023 year. We thank the members of the Canberra Bridge club for their donation of \$250 and especially our past President Sandra Purser.

4. Programs

Our strategic plan requires us to deliver programs which are responsive and relevant to the target audience taking account of new developments in technology. Goal one of our strategic plan also requires us to strengthen and build stakeholder engagement across the community.

Radio 1RPH continues to develop its library of podcasts of programs able to be provided in this manner including our interview programs and our daily readings of the Canberra times.

Our programs are our highlights for our listeners. They are also our shop window to the community and our funding bodies.

During the 2022-23 year, 1RPH volunteers delivered 30 hours of live daily newspaper readings every week and kept up a high level of new and first-run recorded programs to fill 1RPH's daily schedules. 35 regular magazine-based and topical programs were recorded and broadcast each week and a total of 30 new book readings were played over the year, including seven children's and young adult books. They are listed below.

A Newspapers Focus Group was formed in late 2022 to begin the station's transition to digital newspapers. This has become more urgent with cost increases of paper copies as well as potential efficiencies of moving to online access. Good progress was made on evaluating existing products although the group suspended its activities with the departure of volunteer Nev Blyth. It remains important to progress the transition.

In early 2023 the Program Director Amelia McKenzie convened the first meeting of the station Operational Group to manage routine daily activities such as recruitment and induction of new volunteers, roster coordination, volunteer communication and programming updates. The Group met monthly from February 2023 and oversaw a notable increase in new volunteers joining the station and taking on a variety of roles.

Work commenced on the Cart Review of station carts and promo announcements with the aim of updating and refreshing the station's on-air presence. The Review was led by Virginia Brown, beginning with individual program promos. Volunteers producing programs were invited to update existing promos or create new ones, and new promos were recorded and mixed. The station now has a better set of promos reflecting the full range of programming.

Programming highlights

The year's programming saw the launch of a new overnight programming initiative, plus a notable increase in the station's outreach and engagement activities. Station volunteers went out and about recording interviews and covering community activities. Highlights of the year included:

- The commencement of a major new programming initiative, Noise Control Radio – overnight programming of a soundscape of atmospheric sound – also described as 'brown noise' – that is soothing and restful for neurodivergent listeners. Pioneered and presented by Liam Jordan, Noise Control Radio is broadcast overnight on DAB+ and represents an additional channel of listening for 1RPH audiences;
- Four one-off Law Program interviews were recorded by Suzanne Howarth with Canberra-based legal professionals on all aspects of life in the law, from human rights to disability issues to politics;
- Management Committee member Ben Signor recorded an interview with Floriade Head Gardener Tim Howard during the Floriade week in September;
- The station broadcast its first audio description program during the Canberra Enlighten Festival in March 2023, when volunteers David Moncrieff and Sue Jose recorded live atmospheric descriptions of the events, broadcast immediately afterwards;
- We presented a new 'life skills' program called Thinking Aloud, readings and conversation about psychology presented by Salih Ozgul and produced by Roy Jeeves;
- Local author Marion Meischke read her recently published three part history of Gundaroo, In Living Memory;
- The Station also broadcast a number of special one-off programmes throughout the year, including commemorations of Remembrance Day, ANZAC Day and Christmas and Easter

programmes. Christmas Day 2022 featured a radio play recorded by local Canberra theatre group Tempo Theatre, the tenth year of its appearance in the Christmas Day program.

Book readings

Books recorded by 1RPH volunteers and broadcast during the year:

Persuasion by Jane Austen, read by Jenny Murphy
My Cousin Rachel by Daphne Du Maurier, read by Gerald Lynch
Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear, read by Lesma Wood
Death comes to Pemberley by PD James, read by Camilla Shaw
In Living Memory - vol.1 The Valley by Marion Meischke and read by the author
In Living Memory - vol.2 Cork St by Marion Meischke and read by the author
In Living Memory - vol.3 The Village by Marion Meischke and read by the author
The Survivors by Jane Harper, read by Sue Farrelly
Life of a Song vol 1, read by John Rogers
Treasure and Dirt by Chris Hammer, read by Sue Farrelly
Sahara by Clive Kussler, 1RPH read by Donald Purley.

Books from other RPH stations

Nancy Wake by Peter Fitzsimon, 7RPH
Brother and Sister by Joanna Trollope, 2RPH
Not a Penny More Not a Penny Less by Jeffrey Archer, 2RPH
Great Tales of Terror, 4RPH
As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning by Laurie Lee, 2RPH
Prague Sonata by Bradford Morrow, 2RPH
Insiders by Marvin McIntyre, 4RPH
Lark Rise by Laurie Lee, 7RPH
The Patron Saint of Lost Dogs by Nick Trout, 7RPH
Transit of Venus by Shirley Hazzard, 7RPH
Bruny by Heather Rose, 7RPH
One Book Many Brisbanes, 4RPH

Children's and Young Adults readings

The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson, 2RPH
Finn Family Moomintroll by Tove Jansson, 4RPH
Worst Witch to the Rescue by Jill Murphy, 7RPH
Shadow the Sheepdog by Enid Blyton, 1RPH
Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, 1RPH
Orphan Train Adventures – vol 4, by Joan Lowery Nixon, 1RPH
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, 1RPH

Amelia McKenzie

Wagga Wagga and Junee Broadcasts

This year has been an eventful one for the Wagga Wagga team with loss of transmission on a number of occasions usually dealt with promptly by our local and regional tech experts.

We have had iPad problems. We have been unable to log in or have experienced screen freeze or blackout. Thank goodness we have more than one iPad in the studio at any one time and we have our local experts who help resolve these issues.

As for the paper, The Wagga Daily Advertiser, as the year has gone on we have seen less Local News, fewer or no Opinions pieces, occasionally no Editorial or Letters to the Editor. Fun!! But we have found our way around this by reading more from The Rural, The Council News and the Weekend Advertiser. We have also been including more Local Sport in our news readings.

There have been some changes to the team but not to our detriment. We still have an amazing team. Call for help and I will get multiple responses in record time.

I am sure we all look forward to a better 2024.

I also record our appreciation of Heather and Peter Jauncey. Heather and Peter are former Radio 1RPH volunteers who are now resident in Junee. They continue to be active in promoting the Station in the local region through talks and distribution of publicity materials to local groups and organisations.

Jan Hure

Christian Programs

The Christian team has remained a stable group with the welcome addition of Kath Krystali as a reader.

We continue to include material from over 30 Christian publications and online sources in our program. We receive material from 6 Churches in Wagga Wagga and from three churches in Junee. Thanks to Heather and Peter Jauncey for obtaining material from Junee for us.

I acknowledge and thank the following people and organisations.

- The members of the Lutheran Churches in Canberra, Queanbeyan and Wagga Wagga who pay half of the costs of the sponsorship for the Face To Face Program which is broadcast during the week;
- The Campbell Gospel Chapel (Open Brethren) for sponsoring the broadcast of George and Rita Gai's "Communication" program;
- The Christian Churches and organisations which provide us with their materials; and
- team members Alan and Sue Mitchell and Peter Ellis for providing me with new sources of material for the program and Camilla Shaw for providing me with copies of "The Lutheran".

My special heartfelt thanks to the members of the Christian Team who made special efforts to support Robert and I so that the Christian Perspectives program went to air each week during my 15 months in hospital, returning home in June 2023. It was your prayers and support that kept my spirits up during this difficult time.

Wendy Altamore

5. Volunteers

Radio 1RPH's Strategic Plan goal 4 states that we aim to:

“Create a culture, that values, inspires, develops and encourages volunteers.”

Radio 1RPH currently has around 160 volunteers. We have been successful in recruiting new volunteers throughout the 2023 year. Many of these new volunteers are younger and have valued skills. An older volunteer commented that how pleasing it was to see the number of new younger volunteers who joined us for our reception at government House to mark our 40th year. Radio 1RPH used a variety of channels to advertise its need for volunteers and increase its visibility. Volunteering opportunities were marketed through volunteering ACT, the PCYC and the Radio 1RPH social media account.

Orientations sessions for new volunteers were run monthly from February to June 2023 with more than 60 people attending these sessions.

Radio 1RPH continues to provide training opportunities for our volunteers to build their skills and ensure the quality of our live to air and pre-recorded programs. I record our appreciation to our experienced readers and presenters who provide personal mentoring to our new volunteers.

6. Technical Report

The 1RPH technical team provides support for our services in Wagga Wagga and Junee as well as Canberra. Equipment faults and installation of new equipment require occasional visits to Wagga. An improvement recently provided for our Wagga was the installation of an RDS encoder for the Wagga transmitter. This provides a text display on an FM receiver with information such as frequency, call sign and description of our service so that a listener can instantly understand who we are when tuning in. This was one of the many innovative ideas of Nev Blyth whose contribution to technical and other areas of the station we greatly miss after his departure during the year.

Another contributor is Liam Jordan who has greatly improved our technical supervision of the internet link to Wagga reducing our need to travel down there if something fails. Liam has also installed equipment in the control room to provide an ambient music program on our DAB+ channel as mentioned elsewhere in this report.

An important project which is in progress at the moment is the refurbishment of studio D. This studio was added in 1996 when the building was extended and has changed little since that time. This work is divided into two parts: replacement of technical equipment including furniture and painting and decorating which includes carpet replacement and acoustic treatment of the walls. I am fortunate to have the cooperation of Naomi O'Callaghan to complete this work.

Digital Media Delivery

Radio 1RPH is a founding shareholder of Community Digital Radio (Canberra) Pty Ltd) the digital representative company (DRC) which underpins the access of broadcasters to the digital audio broadcasting (DAB Plus) framework in Canberra. Liam Jordan represents Radio 1RPH on the board of this company.

Radio 1RPH has taken the first steps to differentiating its AM/FM and digital programs with the use of the digital channel to broadcast the “Noise Control Radio” program. There is potential to use the combination of digital and AM/FM platforms to time shift programs and to broadcast different programs on different channels to increase the availability and variety of programs for our listeners. This is I suggest an opportunity for the coming year.

Malcolm Walker

Words from Ben Signor

It has been my privilege to represent 1RPH on the RPHA board over the past year. Here, I will provide an update on the various activities at RPHA during that time.

First of all, I am pleased to announce that RPHA has voted to change its name to Disability Media Australia, reflecting its broader scope and vision of empowering people with disability through traditional and digital media. While 1RPH will continue to serve its loyal listener base, we believe this change will be more inclusive and appropriate for the disability landscape in the 21st century.

Secondly, I would like to summarise the Community Broadcasting Associations 2033 Strategic Roadmap, which is a ten-year plan for the community broadcasting sector, outlining a shared vision of the future where community broadcasting is at the heart of every community. The Roadmap was launched in October 2023 at an event attended by the Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP. The Roadmap has four priorities for the sector:

- Growing our capability: enhancing our skills, knowledge, technology and infrastructure to deliver quality media services.
- Celebrating our identity and demonstrating our impact: showcasing our diversity, uniqueness, relevance and value to our communities and stakeholders
- Amplifying diverse voices: ensuring our media reflects and represents the voices of our communities, especially those who are underrepresented or marginalised in mainstream media.
- Securing our capacity to meet community needs: strengthening our financial sustainability, governance, partnerships and advocacy to support our mission and vision.

As members of the CBAA, both 1RPH and Disability Media Australia are committed to using the Roadmap to better inform our decisions going forward.

Thirdly, I would like to talk about the launch of Powerd Media, which is a joint initiative of Disability Media Australia and the CBAA, and a proud partner of the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF).

Powerd Media is a new online platform that seeks to fill a gap in media by and for people with disability. The website features content produced by people with disability across screen, audio, podcasts and articles. The content covers a range of topics, such as arts, culture, sport, health, education, technology, politics and more. The content is also accessible and inclusive, with options for changing text size, captions, transcripts and audio descriptions.

Powerd Media aims to help people with disability by providing them with information, entertainment, education and empowerment. It also aims to challenge stereotypes and stigma, and promote positive and authentic stories of disability. We hope that Powerd Media will benefit 1RPH in the future through the sharing of content, and by giving us more opportunities to collaborate with other content producers in the sector.

These are some of the exciting developments and achievements that have happened in the past year for our sector. I hope you are as excited as I am about these positive developments, and I look forward to continuing to represent 1RPH in the year to come.

Ben Signor

7. In memorium

Radio 1RPH Acknowledges the following people who have died during the reporting period and the significant contributions to our service.

Margaret McCaw was a long-time reader for Christian Perspectives and was known and loved by those with whom she read. Margaret had an affinity with our listeners. Margaret's father Ken McCaw was vision impaired and was the first vision impaired person to achieve the office of Attorney-General for NSW in the 1950s.

Katharine Walker was also a long-time reader for Christian Perspectives, contributed to our special Christmas and Easter programs and read newspapers on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. Katharine and Judith also regularly attended and supported Radio 1RPH social functions.

Gerald Lynch was a long-term volunteer book reader. Gerald served as a Committee member and was President from early 2012 to early 2014.

To Margaret, Katharine and Gerald, we say thank you and we offer our sincere condolences to their families.