

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020**

Riverland Christian Radio Inc





Our mission

- To impact lives, bringing hope and positivity to the Riverland community
- To promote good physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health by presenting programmes that are positive, uplifting, entertaining and informative.
- To present a Biblical worldview that leads people to a revelation of God's grace
- To encourage and assist the local Christian Church to connect in positive and encouraging ways with their communities.
- To influence people and communities for their present and future well-being, through communicating God's life-giving words of hope.

Our vision

To communicate in a contemporary way, the truth, relevance and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ through radio.

Our History

Riverland Christian Radio Inc formally came into being in 1998.

Riverland Life FM began test broadcasts on the 11th December 2005 and received a temporary community broadcasting licence, on frequency 93.9 MHz.

The station office in Loxton was used for both administration and radio production, despite having no studios. A number of 107.9 Life FM announcers in Adelaide gave their time and voices to our broadcast. In 2006, Doug Oakley trained local volunteers in announcing and programming. Gary Wheatcroft was our first General Manager (part-time).

In 2008, to make way for the new ABC News radio service, the ACMA changed the radio frequency of Riverland Life FM to 100.7 MHz.

In 2009 regular live outside broadcasts of the Riverland Football League commenced and two studios were built. In November that year Jason Evans became General Manager and served for the next 2 years. In 2012 Heather Saunders was appointed Station Manager, having volunteered as Music & Production Director and Office Administrator for the previous 5 years.

In July 2018, a major milestone was reached with the allocation of the full 5-year community radio broadcasting license for the Riverland.

In November 2019, we were allocated the licence to run a repeat transmitter in Waikerie.

The repeat broadcast to Waikerie on 88.5 FM began in June 2020.

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AN OVERVIEW OF RIVERLAND LIFE FM

ABOUT US

Riverland Christian Radio Inc, trading as Riverland Life FM holds the only community broadcasting licence for FM radio transmission in the Riverland region of South Australia.

ACMA Broadcast Licence Area: Riverland RA1
 Community Broadcast Licence #10177
 Community Interest: Religious - Christian

ABN: 72 851 565 374

Riverland Christian Radio Inc is registered for GST

Riverland Christian Radio Inc is endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity and is listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) as a deductible gift recipient. The Riverland Christian Radio Inc Cultural Fund, was established to receive tax-deductible donations.

Riverland Christian Radio Inc is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

CONTACT US

Station Office: 48 Bookpurnong Terrace LOXTON

PO Box 1680 LOXTON SA 5333

Ph 08 8584 6939

Mob: 0417 248 000

Web: www.riverlandlife.org.au

email@riverlandlife.org.au

Facebook: 100.7 Riverland Life FM

Riverland Life FM Local Sport

Instagram: [#riverlandlifefm](https://www.instagram.com/riverlandlifefm)

AN OVERVIEW OF RIVERLAND LIFE FM

OUR PEOPLE

Board of Management	Position
Tim Vivian	Chairperson
Paul Devenport	Vice-Chairperson
Chris Fulham	Treasurer
Louise Gutsche	Secretary
Samuel Taylor	Technical Co-ordinator
Erin Harrald	Promotions Co-ordinator
Peter Magarey	Board Member
Marg Phillips	Board Member
Scott Main	Board Member (retired October 2020)
Trevor Scott	Board Member (joined October 2020)

Staff	Position
Heather Saunders	Station Manager (part-time)
Margot Smythe	Office Assistant (part-time 2019-2020)
Emma McGregor	Office Assistant (casual June-August)

Volunteer Team	Role
Michael Western	Tech Support
Rohan Scarfe	Presenter/Tech Support
Shane Phillips	Presenter
Erin Harrald	Presenter
Trevor Scott	Presenter
Scott Main	Presenter
Margaret Wormald	Presenter
Abbie Reimann	Presenter
Jacob Sander	Presenter
Jayden Everett	Presenter
Darcy Everett	Presenter
Lucilla Everett	Presenter
Paul Devenport	OB Presenter
Margot Smythe	Newsletter and Design
Casual Volunteers	
John Krause	Community Engagement
Smythe family	Community Engagement
Marg Phillips	Community Engagement, Audio Production

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12: 4-5)

Well what a year. I hear so many times that this year has been a year like no other. This is usually followed by a series of negative remarks, Doom and Gloom and why people cannot wait for the year to be over.

This year certainly has been far from doom and gloom from a financial perspective and we are thankful for the support given to us from the Australian Government. Our Lord, once again, has certainly had his hand on the station. This year we had the privilege to broadcast sermons every Sunday while people and our churches were in lockdown. We are grateful to Pastor Darrin Kohrt, Father Paul Devenport and others for putting together these sermons each week.

Football

We started the year ready to form a partnership with Nick Dillon and broadcast not only live to RLFM but also to Facebook. This was something that we worked on over the summer period with Nick and obviously with no RFL this year came to a quick halt. We continue to work closely with the RFL and will plan for the next year's season with anticipation.

Field Days

Cancelled

Relay for Life

This year will see Relay for Life run a little differently. We as a station will continue to be involved with raising money but we will hold our own walk/run where teams are required to travel 28km (28 South Australians are diagnosed with cancer every day). We will be holding our relay on 24th October in Loxton and holding a BBQ outside Home Hardware. We will still be involved with the night-time proceedings but there will be no overnight relay.

Milestones

2020 certainly saw two milestones achieved that have been on the boards agenda since I was first elected some 10+ years ago. During the year we applied for a grant through Tony Pasin and was successful in obtaining monies to put ducted reverse cycle air-conditioning through the office and studios. I am sure our presenters and Heather are grateful during our regions fluctuating weather conditions.

The second milestone that finally came to fruition was the erection and start of the Waikerie Transmitter. We now broadcast not only on 100.7 but also on 88.5 FM in Waikerie. This could not be achieved if it were not for the kind donation of the Waikerie Rotary Club and the hard work by Brenton Reimann, Heather Saunders, Gary Wheatcroft, Samuel Taylor, and Mike Western.

I know I said there were two milestones but there is a third milestone that has been talked about for a little while at Board level and I am pleased to say that Trevor Scott has joined the broadcast team with a Breakfast Show for the station, Monday to Friday. Trevor is a massive asset to the station, and we thank him for putting this to air every morning. For those who have heard Better Breakfast in the mornings, I am sure you would agree that it gives the station a brand-new feel. We also welcomed this year, Margaret Wormald to our on-air crew with her segment "Talking Books". Margaret takes our listeners on a journey through many amazing books and offers a wealth of knowledge into the world of "good reads."

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT (cont.)

While talking about radio shows, I would like to thank all our on-air presenters who each week put their shows together for us. You all have an amazing talent, and the station would not be the same without you. Thank you, Rohan & Shane, Erin, Scott, Trevor, Margaret, and of course the kids from Kids Kuizine.

I started my report with a Romans 12:4-5. To me this reflects our Board, as without each other we do not operate. None of our achievements would be made possible without the amazing people that meet each month to maintain Riverland Life FM. Heather Saunders, Station Manager, continues to be the core of RLFM. Her sacrificial giving of her time and her heart has meant that we continue to be on-air 24/7 for our 15th year. We thank Heather for her massive inputs, and we thank the Lord for His work through her.

Our Board Members have each brought valuable talents and blessings to RLFM this year. Our team works well together as one body and together there is nothing we cannot achieve. Paul Devenport (Vice Chair), Louise Gutsche (Secretary), Erin Harrald, Samuel Taylor, Marg Phillips, Chris Fulham, Scott Main, and Peter Magarey. Our station is what it is because of your tireless efforts. I personally thank each one of you for your dedication to the station. This year Scott is stepping down from his board duties and will focus more on his radio show, “Life in the Garden.”

The station, like all community groups struggles for volunteers so if you can spare some time to help, then please talk to Heather or one of the Board members to see where you could be of assistance.

Please continue to hold the station in your prayers as we look to Jesus, our Head, for his wisdom and guidance in the coming year.

Yours in Christ

Tim Vivian
 Chairperson
 Riverland Life FM



TREASURY REPORT

When I joined the Board, the last role I had in mind was to become Treasurer, however some much wiser people than myself saw that this role was something I could sink my teeth into and provide our Station Manager with some support on the financial side. I hope this has been achieved.

Once I took on the role, I felt the first task which needed completing was to have a clear and concise understanding of how the station was run and managed financially, spending time with Heather and reading policies, procedures and business plans. Next step was to update our banking to a higher level of transparency and security by going online with multiple signatories for online accounts.

My next step was to help create a 12Month Budget to be set up for the 2020 calendar year. This would give me a chance to have a good look at what it took financially to run this wonderful radio station. Heather, Brenton Reimann (Reimagn Consulting) and myself then had multiple Zoom meetings to go through the budget, line by line, to ensure the income and expense goals for 2020 were clear and achievable, but also challenging in regards to goals for station sponsorship and membership.

This budget was presented to the board for ratification in January .. not long after that ... the world changed! With the onset of COVID 19 there were shutdowns of 'non-essential' businesses, people were out of work, sporting clubs were shut, exercise was limited and even worse ... no toilet paper could be found.

For a period of time the RFL season was in limbo, which is a major source of income for Life FM, through live outside broadcasts/sponsorship, and we as a board spoke at length about the possibility of the season being cut short...or even worse, being cancelled, which it was. While this was playing out, we kept our eyes out for any grants or government support which could support our station during this period. Firstly the federal government announced a \$20,000 support for many businesses and praise God, we were eligible. In this one supplement we were confident that the station's expenses would be covered. We then were able to apply for JobKeeper to help in paying our Station Manager's wages - another blessing! We also picked up some new station sponsors which provided much needed income.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in a grant to provide financial support for an office assistant for the next 12 months. We are still hopeful of some good grant funding to enable the correct fit out of our Waikerie Tower project in the coming months. The latest good news is that the station has recently become eligible for the JobKeeper extension which will certainly assist in covering our wage expenses over the next three months.

All in all, I am feeling confident that the actual budget will come close to what was planned back in January which considering the 2020 year, is an excellent result. I feel though, as we move into 2021, that the Board and management of Riverland Life FM will need to continue to work very hard to ensure a good flow of income to ensure our station runs at the high level it does now and continue to make large improvements in quality and professionalism.

I wish to thank Heather Saunders for all of her very hard work she puts into running the station and I would also like to thank the Board for their support and wisdom. Finally, but most importantly, I would like to thank our God for his provision and Love for this ministry. I pray we continue to hear Him and that we continue to be guided by Him in what He would have for Riverland Life FM.

Chris Fulham
Treasurer

The 2019-2020 AUDIT STATEMENT is available at our website, www.riverlandlife.org.au

Waikerie Repeater Project Workgroup

*“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you”
- Isaiah 26:3 -*

2020 has been a big year for us.

The exciting thing to get out first up is that WE ARE BROADCASTING IN WAIKERIE ON 88.5MHz!!!

Praise God, and I'm very thankful for some great people to work alongside to get to this point - specifically Gary Wheatcroft, Mike Weston, Heather Saunders and Samuel Taylor.

However, we aren't quite finished yet.

The installation is a temporary one, and we're streaming the signal off the internet, and then broadcasting it on 88.5MHz. We are yet to take the signal from the Loxton tower on 100.7MHz and rebroadcast it on 88.5MHz.

We came into 2020 with some test broadcast dates set for early March, but just as we were going to do it, yep, you guessed it, COVID-19 restrictions hit.

So it wasn't until June that I was able to mobilise the workgroup to have another go. On June 13, Gary, Samuel and I got the first test on air and did some signal strength field testing which showed promising results.

The other matter alongside this is our lease agreement with SA Water. I handed liaison with SA Water about the lease over to Tim Vivian, the Chair of the Board, back in June. After considerable back and forth negotiations, my latest communication from Tim indicates we have finally got a signed lease agreement! I'm not sure if we have the final document yet, however.

Currently we are submitting some equipment items in a special COVID grant round to help with the permanent installation.

And the other key task is to raise around \$12,000 to enable the permanent installation to be completed. This will involve equipment purchases to operate in the long term, and design, construction and installation of the two antenna systems (Transmit and Receive) required on the Old Waikerie Water Tower (Cliff St, Waikerie).

Brenton Reimann - Project Manager

Reimaginn Consulting

0424 932 292

reimaginn@gmail.com

www.reimaginnconsulting.com



PS - My contract as the Project Manager for this project has also come to an end, and I will just use some hours that have accumulated over the time, which will probably be used up by the end of 2020. I would anticipate this to be my final report to the Board for this project. Thank you for the privilege and trust you placed in me to provide some leadership on this project. I hope and pray this has been helpful to Riverland Life FM, but ultimately and most importantly, to the expansion of God's Kingdom. Thanks again.

STATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Looking back at the year that has been, that is, the latter half of 2019 and 2020 thus far, we can certainly see that it has been as challenging as ever, but in some new and unexpected ways. The entry of Covid-19 meant a major reduction in opportunities to engage more directly with the Riverland community. Last year we were unable to participate in the Riverland Field Days due to a clash with the RFL Grand Final, and this year the event was cancelled due to Covid-19. The biggest change came with the cancellation of the 2020 Riverland Football season, which has long been a focus for us, giving us more local content, interaction with the general community and much needed sponsorship.

Covid-19 robbed us of revenue from the football broadcast, but we have received some of the Federal Government Covid stimulus payments, such as the business cash boost and Jobkeeper. These have kept us going and we are thankful to the Lord for His provision. The administration required to participate in these programs is significant and for that we are grateful to have Chris Fulham as our Treasurer. Chris joined the Board last October and I'm sure he didn't know what he was in for then – but the Lord knew what we would need in 2020 and so we praise the Lord for meeting our need in giving us a faithful and capable treasurer for such a time as this.

God is good! While a few radio shows were 'shut down' by Covid-19, 2020 has nevertheless been a year for new volunteer presenters and fresh new local content. In April this year we were joined by Margaret Wormald with Talking Books, a radio show about books and the pleasures of reading. If you want to be inspired to read more, and to discover some wonderful new books, then this is the show for you.

Another show, started in February this year and gathering listener support, is Life In The Garden, presented by Scott Main. This is another show that focuses on our region and brings Riverland voices to our radio broadcast. We were also pleased this year to see the return of a real estate show, the Real Estate Round Up, once more sponsored by Elders Real Estate and expertly presented by local agents, Dave Kanizay and Raph Liddle.

More recently, Trevor Scott joined us with the Better Breakfast, giving us a local voice during the hours 6am to 9am on weekdays, a peak timeslot for listening to the radio, and the perfect time to inform the Riverland community about what's happening in our patch, and elsewhere in our state. Our longest running radio show deserves a mention. Rohan and Shane get together each week to add some 'flavour' to night radio - and not just metaphorically! This dynamic duo takes over the airwaves on Tuesday nights and they do it with their own unique style.

Besides presenting the Bakers Hour and her midday show each week, Erin Taylor also helps us connect with listeners and friends of the station via Facebook, assisted by our valued IT technician Samuel Taylor. Erin and Samuel celebrated their wedding live online in April and it is a continuing delight to have them both as part of our team.

We are so appreciative of our local presenters who take time out of their busy lives to regularly produce local content for our broadcast. This takes effort and commitment, and when their work is done it all too quickly disappears from the airwaves. But these artistic works are not gone for good, and can be heard again via podcast on our website. I am confident that people are listening intently and enjoy sharing time with our radio presenters. On occasion I will get a phone call or someone will drop in, asking about a song or something mentioned on the radio, and the conversation often reveals that our broadcast really means a lot to them, and encourages them in their life and faith. If you get the opportunity, let us know what you enjoy listening to and give our volunteers and presenters the encouragement they deserve.

STATION MANAGER'S REPORT (cont.)

This year we – finally! – began re-broadcasting on a local frequency (88.5FM) to Waikerie and the surrounding areas. This is a repeat transmission of our main signal from the Loxton tower, relayed to another transmitter at the old SA Water tower in the Waikerie township. The goal to have this extension of our broadcast has been planned from early days of the station as it was originally in the ACMA local area plan (LAP) for the Riverland. Around this time last year, the ACMA finalised an update to the LAP and allocated the Waikerie licence to Riverland Life FM, which greatly smoothed the way for us. The current broadcast set-up at Waikerie is temporary, and we now need to buy equipment and secure some technical services, to establish a more permanent facility. Our thanks, for progress in all of this, goes to Project Manager, Brenton Reimann, and the team – Samuel Taylor, Gary Wheatcroft and Michael Western. We also acknowledge, and thank, Waikerie Rotary Club for donating funds, a number of years ago, to seed this project.

As this year continues and we move into 2021, we look forward to putting on more local content, including the return of Kids Kuizine with Abbie Reimann and Jacob Sander, and new KidsLife content by Jayden, Darcy and Lucilla Everett. I'm grateful to Marg Phillips for helping with the audio production needed to get some of these shows ready to go to air. We are also looking to share personal testimonies of salvation from Riverland Christians. This is an ambitious project. It will take time to find people willing to participate and then to record their testimonies. It will be an ongoing work and will help us fulfil the station's mission to share the love of Christ with the Riverland community. If you would like to participate in the Testify Project by sharing your testimony, or helping with recording testimonies of others, please get in touch with us.

In closing, thank you to our members, and to our donors and volunteers, regular and occasional, for lifting us up through your prayers, practical help, generosity and words of encouragement. I would like to thank our Chairman Tim Vivian and the Board of Management for their leadership and unfailing dedication to Riverland Life FM. Each member of the Board has used their unique gifts to faithfully serve the Lord in the mission of station.

If there's one lesson to be learned from this year, it is that while we might be surprised by events, we can be certain that the Lord is never taken by surprise. He is always in charge and we only need to remain faithful, looking to Him to find the way through.

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!
Romans 11:33 (NIV)*

Heather Saunders
Station Manager



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2020

With the Covid-19 emergency, community engagement was limited in 2020.

We got off to an early start with a sausage sizzle fundraiser/meet-and-greet at Bunnings on January 11. This was followed by our participation in the Loxton Mardi Gras pageant, where the team looked lively with their big boom boxes – thanks to the artistic talents of Margot Smythe.

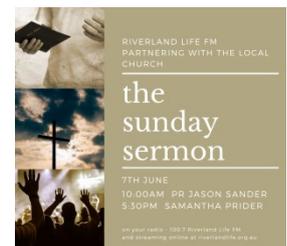
As with many other community radio stations across Australia, when Covid-19 social restrictions began, we experienced a sudden halt to physical face to face contact between station team members and also with the community. The cancellation across the region of many community activities soon followed, including our major sporting activities.

Unable to be seen out and about for an unspecified period, we looked to increase our social media and other online activity, while keeping up with Board and team meetings online.



The biggest change to our calendar of events was the cancellation of the Riverland Football League competition. Then later, hopes of getting to the 2020 Riverland Field Days were dashed when that event was also cancelled. We weren't able to get onto the streets for another community engagement event until late October with the Riverland Relay for Life. This was a smaller affair than usual, but it was great to be able to get our team together again and walk the streets to fundraise for a good cause.

Other normal outreach activities such as studio workshops and programming meetings were paused in 2020. Despite this, 2020 proved to be a good year for new shows and new presenters, with the addition of Life in the Garden and Talking Books, giving us something new to promote and share on social media, emails and newsletters. With Covid-19 restrictions affecting church meetings, our new series of Sunday Sermons delivered by local pastors and lay preachers was much appreciated.



Despite the changes in routine, some big projects were getting done! The focus of our June Fundraising Appeal was paying off our new air-conditioning in the station office and studios, and our fantastic community of supporters came to our assistance to finish the job.

The change of pace caused by Covid-19 restrictions gave us time to look more closely at how we could benefit more from social media. Two short slideshow picture ads were created for Facebook to promote the station. Newsletters and e-News emails also helped to keep supporters up to date.

While the repeat transmission to Waikerie on 88.5 FM is already operational, we hope to have a 'proper' community event to celebrate this achievement, perhaps when the permanent installation of antenna array, transmitter and cabinetry is completed.

Heather Saunders
Station Manager

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Riverland Life FM acknowledges and thanks the following agencies and individuals for their valuable contributions to the station in 2020:

Grants Funding



The **Community Broadcasting Foundation** (CBF) provided two Covid-19 Emergency funding grants which enabled the station to purchase home studio recording equipment.

The Australian Government **Stronger Communities Programme** provided funds for the installation of air-conditioning at the station office and studios in Loxton. Our thanks to Tony Pasin MP, Member for Barker, for the facilitation of this grant.

Sponsors

Scarfes Electronics
 The Country Bakehouse
 Rivergum Christian College
 Beech Hardware Barmera
 Nitschke Bulk Transport
 oeDigital
 La Villa Home Décor & Gifts
 Leading The Way
 Living Waters Christian Community
 Riverland Central Church
 Mike Taylor Accounting
 Jannette Fulham Photography
 Reimaginn Consulting
 Riverland West Chamber of Commerce
 Ausnat Fruits

Association Memberships

Christian Media & The Arts Australia
 South Australian Community Broadcasters Association
 Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

Retiring Board Members

Scott Main

Thank you to all our members and donors – your partnership in the ministry is an integral part of Riverland Life FM's progress and successes, and a great encouragement to our team.