



ARTSOUND INCORPORATED

ACN 083 850 739

ANNUAL REPORT

2014-15

ArtSound Inc
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ArtSoundFM is a member of



Acknowledgements.

ArtSound is supported by grants from



ArtSound thanks all our sponsors.

(see Page 22 for the list of major sponsors)

LIFE MEMBERS as at 30 June 2015

Gillian	Alcock
Phil	Birch-Marston
Paul	Bromley
Christine	Cansfield-Smith
Chris	Deacon OAM
Gary	Knobel
Jenny	Knobel*
Terry	McGee
Greg	Mitchell
Jim	Mooney OAM
Philip	O'Brien
Bill	Oakes
Kathy	Syrette
Peter	Trainor
Annabel	Wheeler
Clinton	White

*With deep regret we wish to advise that Jenny Knobel, long-term presenter, dedicated volunteer and past Radiothon coordinator died in August 2015. Our sympathy goes to her family.

OVERVIEW

ArtSound FM plays an important part in engaging with and promoting the arts and cultural landscape of the ACT and region. We continue to put a major focus on and be proud of our role as a champion of the local arts community and we are keen to explore new and additional ways of contributing to a more cohesive arts and cultural scene.

A highlight of 2014-15 was the successful transfer of our main (92.7Mhz) transmission site from Black Mountain Tower to Poppet Hill in Kowen Forest, with minimal disruption to our services. This result was achieved through prolonged and sustained effort of Chris Deacon, Manager, Technology, with the support of a number of technical and other volunteers. The project was supported by the ACT Government and grants from the Community Broadcast Fund (CBF) as well as donations from members and listeners.

The amazing effort of staff and a group of very dedicated and committed volunteers, with the ongoing support of the ACT Government and the CBF, our major sponsors and many other sponsors and Arts Partners, kept ArtSound on air 24hours a day seven days a week throughout 2014-15.

The financial result for 2014-15, while very pleasing, is unlikely to be repeated, at least in the short term. An increasing number of organisations are competing for government and private sector support, which in many cases is either shrinking or remaining static.

The challenge for 2015-16 and beyond continues to be to raise sufficient funds from all sources, but in particular through greater engagement with sources of sponsorship and major donations, to meet the increasing level of broadcast expenses and to undertake major upgrade of technology for both broadcasting and general operations. We need to be smart and innovative in the way we raise funds and allocate our resources.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The media landscape in Australia is changing rapidly, and as a community media organisation, we have faced our share of challenges.

Our balance sheet shows that we have substantial assets in terms of plant and equipment. But these pale into insignificance compared with our human assets – volunteers, staff and contractors.

We have much to be pleased about. For example, our Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) licence was extended for five years until July 2020, thanks to the work of former vice president Peter Crossing and many others. We have successfully moved into the era of internet-delivered radio with the consolidation of our Silver Memories service.

As you will read elsewhere in this report, we also saw the culmination of many years work, particularly by Chris Deacon, with the relocation of our main transmission site from Black Mountain Tower to Poppet Hill.

Our membership is now stable after declining for several years, as is our income from the annual Radiothon. While the loss of our Key Arts Organisation status with artsACT two years ago was a blow, we are as a result even more focused on promoting our strong arts credentials, including recording, interviewing and covering local artists, musicians and events.

The Board's necessary but difficult decision in mid-2014 to reduce staff and contractor hours meant that we have had to take literally our role as a Board of Management. Members of the Board have taken responsibility for some day-to-day management tasks. I would like to particularly thank Jeannie McLellan, who as a new Board member in 2014 undertook the daunting task of financial management – work which had previously been the responsibility of Dianne Parrey, who retired in October 2014, and to whom we also owe our thanks.

In March, the Board finalised a new one-year contract with Deacon Communications for the delivery of broadcast and other services, and Chris Deacon's title changed from General Manager to Manager Technology to better reflect the focus of his consultancy. I thank Chris in particular for steering us through the perils of the move to Poppet Hill, and for his work on Kingston Arts Precinct planning.

I pay tribute to and thank Judy Baker, whose title is now ArtSound Administrator. Her patience, good humour and willingness to work long hours (often as a volunteer) is legendary and much appreciated. We were able to offer Judy some extra paid hours to focus on sponsorship development during 2014-15 thanks to a one-off salary subsidy from the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

I would like to thank other staff and contractors, including Tony Hunter, Leonie Smith and Mike Champion, and my fellow Board members for their hard work and perseverance through sometimes difficult discussions. Senior Vice President Paul Conn is stepping down from the Board, but I hope that he will be able to continue his involvement with our Program Committee. He has been a key member of the Board Executive, and I thank him on your behalf.

Finally, the constitutional changes passed in August mean that from 2016, we will operate and report on a calendar year basis, with Annual General Meetings in the first half of the year. So may I take what might be the last opportunity at an ArtSound AGM to wish everyone all the best for the forthcoming festive season.

Richard Scherer
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been heartening to see the depth of commitment by the breadth of volunteers and staff who help to keep ArtSound great.

Volunteers and staff have, across the financial year, met to strategically plan for the future and plan and implement activities designed to both bring in funding to the station as well as bring the ArtSound community together.

The ArtSound Board met on 7 February for a planning day, to discuss not only the year to come but a broad vision for ArtSound for the next five years. The meeting was held at the ANU School of Music and we thank the School of Music for making a conference room available for that event. The first part of the planning day was attended by Dean of the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Paul Pickering, and Dr Samantha Bennett, Acting Head of School of Music. Further opportunities for collaboration between ArtSound and the School of Music were discussed, with specific items planned in light of 2015 being the School of Music's 50th anniversary year.

The efforts and work of ArtSound's committees bear acknowledgement. Some mentions include:

The Program Committee continued to ensure the smooth function of ArtSound's broadcast schedule during the financial year.

The 2014 Radiothon committee was pleased to have overseen another successful ArtSound Radiothon, which brought in about \$34,000 into ArtSound's coffers.

Having completed an assessment of potential funding opportunities and grants suitable for ArtSound the Fundraising and Social Activities Committee was replaced by the Events and Promotions Committee in March 2015. The new committee was to focus on events planning and promotional events including fundraising activities.

Some notable events were staged during the year, including two inaugural ones: a Garden Concert in late February, held at the Manuka Arts Centre, home to ArtSound and PhotoAccess; and an ArtSound Unplugged event featuring Paul Conn in May. The latter was a members-only event and the former offered discounted ticket prices to ArtSound members.

The Board met on a regular basis to deal with matters relating to the strategic governance and management of ArtSound.

Evana Ho

Secretary & Events & Promotions Committee Convenor

TREASURER'S REPORT

I hereby present ArtSound's financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015, and submit the proposed budget for 2016.

Our Performance in Summary

ArtSound recorded a net surplus for the year of \$43,844, a turnaround of more than 83,000 on the 2013-14 result.

The turnaround was due, in large part, to measures taken in mid-2014 to reduce staff and contractor hours, and re-allocate some of the work to volunteers. It also reflected major fundraising initiatives.

Significantly, our assets to liabilities ratio also showed a dramatic turnaround.

At 30 June 2015, we had current assets of more than \$126,000, against total liabilities of about \$80,000. This compares with assets at 30 June 2014 of about \$121,000, but liabilities of more than \$136,000.

Treasurer's Comment

As a direct result of the governance decisions made by the previous Board, and with continued focus on austerity for expenses that could be controlled, that is through further reductions in paid staff hours and support of a dedicated team of administrative volunteers, our reduced staffing costs were a direct contributor to the turnaround in net profit achieved in 2014-15.

However, actual broadcast expenses increased significantly with the cost of electricity now a direct cost for our new transmission site at Poppet Hill alerting us to the savings that had previously been achieved through a very beneficial arrangement which expired in 2014-15 and was not likely to be renewed, even if we had remained at Black Mountain.

Looking ahead, I believe the local financial climate in 2015-16 will continue to be as tight as last year.

We will continue to rely on dedication, assistance and support of all parties – Board, Management, Volunteers and Members as we look to find new and increased sources of income whilst maintaining the quality of service to the arts and cultural community, members and our listeners want and expect from ArtSound.

As a result of constitutional amendments approved in August 2015, ArtSound is moving to calendar year financial reporting, and hence this will be the last financial year report.

Budgets for the six months to 31 December 2015, and for the 2016 calendar year, are tabled and recommended for adoption.

Richard Scherer

Acting Treasurer

MANAGER, TECHNOLOGY: REPORT

2014/15 was another successful year of ongoing development and refinement of ArtSound FM's facilities and capabilities, despite the difficult economic circumstances which hampered our efforts at achieving more with limited resources. Apart from some occasional power failures that were outside our control however, we were able to maintain the continuity of our service with a team of volunteers.

A major focus was completing the new Poppet Hill Transmission site and relocating our equipment from Black Mountain, which has enabled us to use higher power, and an improved antenna system, to provide a more satisfactory service, at a lower cost. Thanks to support of the Community Broadcasting Foundation, this came with the spinoff benefit of various upgrades to our program chain, including improved audio processing, better remote control and monitoring, provision of backup power supplies at key points of vulnerability, and a new high capacity digital IP link and VPN to the new site.

Our audio streaming service called "Silver Memories", aimed at delivering programming to aged persons and retirees at some 11 sites in Canberra, continued to provide a range of programs 24/7. Remote stream monitoring was introduced and modifications were made to the streaming network capacity to improve quality of service and reliability. Access to NBN fibre, however, remains a high priority as the copper cabling serving Manuka Arts Centre is way below the required standard if we are to continue to grow the internet-based services on which we rely.

Refinements to ArtSound's outside broadcasting capabilities were introduced during the year including increased usage of 4G-LTE audio over IP techniques.

Considerable effort will still need to be focused on seeking funds to complete needed upgrades to ageing IT and audio infrastructure, and improved lightning protection at Poppet Hill. In order to contain increasing electricity consumption costs, techniques such as the use of a small-scale wind-power generator, will need to be actively pursued in 2015/16. .

With the possibility of the studios having to be relocated at the Kingston Foreshore within the next few years, our challenge remains to identify new forms of major donor and foundation funding for the station in support of progressive upgrade of the station's technical facilities to a new digital programming environment, and securing longer term project funding to assist any re-build.

The resulting benefits will directly accrue to the community in the form of improved ArtSound programming and better opportunities for community participation in our new digital media ventures.. As the station develops, those opportunities will grow, and ArtSound will need to be prepared to take advantage of them.

It is rewarding to continue to oversee such progress and I am grateful to all volunteers who have supported our development during 2014/15.

Chris Deacon OAM
Manager, Technology

GOVERNANCE

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, the following six nominees for seven vacant Board positions were declared elected:

- Nick Baldwin
- Gabriela Cabral
- Maria Greene
- Evana Ho
- Jeannie McLellan
- Rebecca Scouller

The five members of the Board who were not required to stand for re-election in 2014, having been elected in 2013, were Paul Conn, Neale Emanuel, Richard Scherer, Emeritus Professor Deane Terrell AO and Professor Peter Tregear. This resulted in a Board with 11 members.

Nick Baldwin and Neale Emanuel left the Board during the early part of 2015. David Chalker was appointed in March to one of the casual vacancies in accordance with Rule 11(5) to serve until the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Board members' experience and expertise include broadcasting and media production; government regulation; music education; community facilities management; information technology; corporate, legal, financial management; banking; and human relations.

The association employed no member of the Board in any capacity nor did any member receive any remuneration from the association during the reporting period. Seven members of the Board were volunteer presenters.

The Board is required to meet at least six times a year for formal Board meetings, and as required, to address additional strategic matters. The Board met formally on seven occasions and held a strategic planning session over 1 day in January 2015.

In 2014-15, the following Committees were active in providing oversight specific aspects of the association's operations and were either chaired by a member of the Board or by a delegated appointed by the Board:

- Executive committee (President; 2 Vice Presidents; Treasurer and Secretary)
- Program Committee (Chaired by Paul Conn)
- Events & Promotions Committee (Chaired by Evana Ho)
- Training Committee (Initially chaired by Gabriela Cabral and then by Bernadette Brennan)
- Technology Committee (Chaired by Richard Scherer)
- ROCO Committee (Chaired by Maria Greene)
- Silver Memories Committee (Chaired by Deane Terrell)
- Grants Committee (Chaired by Gabriela Cabral)
- Radiothon Committee (Chaired by Evana Ho)

ArtSound Board Members as at 30 June 2015

- Mr Richard Scherer President & Acting Treasurer
- Mr Paul Conn Senior Vice President
- Ms Rebecca Scouller Vice President
- Ms Jeannie McLellan Board Financial Delegate
- Emeritus Professor Deane Terrell AM
- Ms Gabriela Cabral
- Ms Maria Greene
- Mr David Chalker

The Board was assisted by the following staff and contractors during the 2014-15 financial year

- Mr Chris Deacon OAM, General Manager to March 2015; Manager, Technology post March 2015 through contract with Deacon Communications
- Ms Judy Baker, Administrator (20 hours per week)
- Ms Leonie Smith, Accounts Clerk (approximately 20 hours per month)
- Mr Mike Champion, Finance Officer (approximately 5 hours per month)
- Mr Tony Hunter, Audio Engineer (hourly basis subject to incoming work)

The Board was also assisted by the following administration volunteers during the 2014-15 financial year

- Ms Judy Baker providing substantial additional hours on volunteer basis throughout the year
- Ms Judy Hays, Office support (approximate 8 hours per week)
- Ms Pam Allen, Office support (approximate 4 hours per week)
- Ms Jeannie McLellan, Business Management & Board Financial Delegate (8 hours per week)
- Membership team of Peter Farrelly, Anne Davies, Jeff Spencer & Peter Trainor
- Ms Vicki Murn, Arts Partner engagement (total 50 hours)
- Ms Dilber Thwaites, Administrative Assistant (2.5 hours per week)

Placements:

- Helen Preston, law student, Macquarie University on a 10 week placement with ArtSound
- Patrick Haesler Year 11 Student, Narrabundah College; musician and with interest in broadcast

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

ArtSound's role in the community

ArtSound is an active voice for practitioners and enthusiasts in the fields of folk and world music, jazz, early and classical music, literature and creative writing, heritage, theatre and local arts news, issues and special events.

Its *raison d'être* is to promote performing and visual arts in the ACT. It achieves this by:

- Broadcasting music with special emphasis on folk, jazz, world and classical music (and related genres), particularly sourced from local artists' recordings or live performances.
- Producing and broadcasting spoken word programs including interviews, in-studio performances, and live recordings of music and theatre tailored to the interests of the Canberra market.
- Promoting, sponsoring and broadcasting arts events, ranging from local regular performances such as the Gods Café series through to concerts from the National Folk Festival.
- Broadcasting several times a day promotional announcements and Arts Diary information about forthcoming and current events in community arts venues and national institutions.

Board members and volunteers have a wide range of affiliations with music and arts organisations in Canberra.

ArtSound encourages members of the arts and music community to be involved in its programs and continues to take a leading or supporting role in many community events. Many musicians have acknowledged the benefits of this involvement by becoming individual or corporate members.

ArtSound has significant collaborations with cultural groups such as the National Gallery of Australia, the ANU School of Music, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, the Canberra Blues Society, the Gods' Café and the Canberra Grammar Jazz Series.

The ACT Government provides funding for activities which support the arts program managed by artsACT. ArtSound has excellent relationships with the ACT Government and its Chief Minister and Ministers responsible for the Arts and for Ageing.

Listener surveys

The National Listener Survey is a survey of the community radio listening habits of Australians through a hybrid telephone and online survey of a representative sample of 10,000 Australians over the age of 15, across all Australian states and territories. It is conducted on behalf of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia by McNair Ingenuity Research, an accredited Australian market and social research organisation with a long history of media research dating back to the first radio audience surveys held in the 1930s.

The surveys provide invaluable information on the population which listens to community radio.

- In July 2015 McNair Ingenuity undertook a representative sample survey of people aged 15 and over throughout the ACT. McNair estimated that 68,000 (22%) of the Canberra population aged 15 and over listen to community radio each week. This represents an increase of 3,000 listeners since the 2014 survey.
- While the McNair estimates do not 'drill down' to individual stations in Canberra, ArtSound would claim a sizeable share of the ACT community radio listening audience, with 34,000 listeners (or 49%) indicating that the reason they listen to community radio is for specialist music.

- A comprehensive breakdown of the ACT McNair Ingenuity survey – by listening preferences, average listening time, reasons for listening, age, gender, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, marital status, household numbers, work status, occupation, education, income, religious faith, language, disabilities – is available at:
https://www.cbaa.org.au/sites/default/files/media/Australian%20Capital%20Territory_0.pdf.

Arts Diary

Arts Diary, which is broadcast up to six times a day, continues to be a popular outlet for organisations wanting promotion of local and regional events including concerts and other live performances, dance, exhibitions, family days, festivals, recitals, music and art classes and theatre. Several new presenters joined the Arts Diary team of Isobel Griffin, Barbie Robinson, Richard Scherer and Jeff Spencer during the year.

National Folk Festival 2015

ArtSound continued its long involvement as a Media Partner with our sponsor, The National Folk Festival, having recorded concerts at the National Folk Festival since Canberra became the permanent site of the Festival in 1993. Seventy eight (78) concerts were recorded at the 2015 festival. The concerts are edited and produced for broadcast in *At the National* which goes to air every Saturday at 8pm. These recordings were achieved through the work of a team of five volunteers with the support of the National Folk Festival event managers and the sound engineers at each venue.

ArtSound also had a small team of accredited media volunteers who conducted interviews with artists for later broadcast throughout the year in addition to a live broadcast session featuring interviews and highlighting recorded music from feature artists from the Festival on Easter Sunday.

Concert & Live Performance recordings

ArtSound FM regularly records and broadcasts live performances including concerts at the National Eisteddfod, the Canberra International Musical Festival, Wesley Music Centre, the Canberra School of Grammar Gallery Jazz Series, Jazz in Concert at the Gods, the Loft Jazz Sessions and Peter Crisp Galleries, ANU School of Music, the Wesley Music Centre, the National Gallery, the National Library, the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, University House and local churches and other live music venues.

Many of these are broadcast during *Concert Hall* and *Friday Night Live* and continue to be very popular with ArtSound audiences. Artists are offered a copy of their concert.

Special thanks are due to Chris Deacon, Annabel Wheeler, Bill Oakes, Gulielma Paton, and Nick Baldwin who for their considerable contributions in recording and editing performances for live to air or broadcast at a later time.

Volunteers also conduct live and recorded interviews for broadcast in a variety of programs in particular:

Arts Café

Arts Café provides a perfect opportunity for interviews and discussions with artists and musicians and is very popular program with our Arts Partners. *Sounds Early*, *Disc Drive* and *Meridian* also offer prime opportunities to connect listeners with the music and arts community and during 2014/15 an increasing number of interviews were included in these prime time programs.

Many presenters have strong and varying interests with groups across the ACT and region and this enables an eclectic mix of sounds and interviews.

Artcetera

Artcetera is a weekly arts, culture, food, wine and lifestyle program produced and presented at ArtSound by Richard Scherer and Barbie Robinson. During 2014-15, it had regular contributions from Evana Ho and other volunteers.

The program's hour-long format gives voice to our regional creative and hospitality industries, large and small, and the producers believe that the connection ArtSound makes with the arts community helps build audiences for both. Among the organisations and artists represented in hundreds of interviews over the year were Belconnen and Tuggeranong Arts Centres, the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Palace Electric Film Festivals, The Front, Canberra District Wines, M16 Artspace, PhotoAccess Huw Davies Gallery and ANCA Gallery.

CSO Proms Concerts

Each year ArtSound FM supports the Canberra Symphony Orchestra at the Proms Concert at Government House. As in previous years, ArtSound FM volunteers committed to supporting the 2015 Proms Concert at Government House.

Friday Night Live

Friday Night Live is ArtSound FM's premier program of live music performance, specializing in contemporary jazz and related music. Produced and hosted by ArtSound FM's Manager Technology and long-standing jazz enthusiast, Chris Deacon, it has been broadcast weekly since 2008. Listeners can hear live performances from the recording studio or recorded concerts from venues around the Canberra region, as well as some of the world's top jazz venues.

ArtSound offers free production and two hours of broadcast time to musicians in order to add to Canberra's already vibrant music community. Each band receives a recording of its concert and it is an opportunity for local musicians to gain vital exposure, promote their original music and experience a live broadcast, which is also streamed to the world.

During 2014-15, more than 100 hours of material was recorded and broadcast, with material sourced primarily from local performances. It is also an opportunity to broadcast some of ArtSound FM's extensive music archive of live concerts recorded by volunteers over the years. ArtSound gratefully acknowledges the many musicians who shared their talents with us over this period.

ArtSound FM continued to co-sponsor live music ventures such as the Jazz in Concert at the Gods and the Bungendore Woodworks Café Concerts series, by recording and packaging the concerts for broadcast, and distributing copies to the musicians. In some cases, ArtSound FM has provided technical support, PA equipment and promotion at no cost, to support these non-profit cultural activities. Material from the above has also been used extensively in Friday Night Live. This year we presented several international musicians through our affiliation with the Embassies of Finland and Belgium. In some cases, concerts have been repeated on programs such as World Vibe, or made available to other community radio stations.

National links

Chris Deacon (General Manager) represented ArtSound FM at the Annual Conference of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, held in Adelaide in November 2014. This provided an opportunity to glean information about new program, sponsorship, training and technical developments affecting the sector as well as to hold planning discussions with managers and volunteers of community stations.

ArtSound FM particularly values its ongoing participation in the Australian Fine Music Network, with benefits including collaborative national projects and sponsorship, sharing of management, fundraising, operational and technical information and ideas.

ArtSound contributes programs regularly to the Community Radio Network for national satellite distribution, such as The Gershwin project.

ArtSound also sources a number of programs from other community stations, including Under African Skies, Jazz Made in Australia, Arts Alive, Writers Radio and The Phantom Dancer.

Technology developments are tracked through Chris Deacon's continuing participation in the training and development activities of the Technorama organization of radio broadcasting technologists.

Fine Music Network Young Performers Award

The Australian Fine Music Network is a collaboration between ArtSound FM (Canberra), Fine Music FM (Sydney), 3MBS FM (Melbourne), 4MBS FM (Brisbane) and 5MBS FM (Adelaide).

Each year the stations host the Young Virtuoso of the Year Award and ArtSound FM sponsors an entry from the ACT, this year in association with the ANU School of Music, the friends of the ANU School of Music, the Bungendore Woodworks Gallery and Café and an anonymous donor.

Canberra-trained classical guitarist Stephanie Jones won the 2014 National Fine Music Network Young Virtuoso Award. The award was announced in Adelaide on 22 November 2014 at national finals organised by fine music station 5MBS-FM. Stephanie received a \$5000 cash prize sponsored by participating stations. ArtSound is grateful to the School of Music for its assistance in choosing an ACT representative and especially the Friends of the School of Music who provided financial support for the airfare for the ACT representative to attend the final.

International Links

In line with its licence undertakings, ArtSound FM maintained its international program links, scheduling *Exploring Music* (WFMT Chicago - presented by Bill McGlaughlin, recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Fine Arts Radio International), the *Putumayo Music Hour* (New York), *New Orleans Calling* (WWOZ New Orleans - presented by George Ingmire), the *Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour* (produced and presented by Folk singer Michael Johnathon, Kentucky), NY Jazz (presented by Tom Parker in New York City) plus the *Deutsche Welle Concert Hour* (Germany).

Initiatives 2014-15

Silver Memories is ArtSound's non-profit private internet audio streaming service tailored specifically to the interests and needs of seniors who may be socially isolated, such as in aged care facilities, retirement villages, respite care or hospitals. It is a key initiative of ArtSound's digital strategy and is the first ancillary (non-

broadcast) service to be launched alongside the FM broadcasting service. It draws on some existing content but provides more tailored access to entertainment and information for its specialised audience.

The service has been operating at 11 aged care facilities in the ACT over the past two years and feedback from listeners suggests the service continues to be favourably received, with some sites advising they “would not wish to be without it”. ArtSound is exploring various ways to fund, develop and expand the coverage of this service to more aged-care and retirement sites in the ACT, and possibly beyond. Because the service is provided on a point-to-multipoint internet basis, many additional sites can be added for incremental cost, without imposing large additional network costs. Discussions are planned with potential sponsors and funding agencies and collaborative approaches to expansion beyond the ACT are being explored with sister stations of the Fine Music Network.

BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

APRA Reporting Obligations

ArtSound FM was required to submit quarterly APRA reports during 2014-15, requiring extensive work to researching and tabulate information. These reports are required by APRA/AMCOS to ensure that stations meet their copyright obligations, and are also used to assess compliance with Australian music content requirements. ArtSound met all its obligations for APRA/AMCOS.

Broadcasting licence

ArtSound FM operates a community broadcasting licence administered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, ACMA. While ArtSound's current licence was successfully renewed through until 2020.

Poppet Hill Project

A major milestone was reached when ArtSound began broadcasting from its new transmission site at Poppet Hill, adjacent to the Kowen Forest, on 12 February 2015. Plans for this project, which is shared with two other community FM broadcasters, began in 2010. ArtSound General Manager Chris Deacon undertook coordination of the project in collaboration with 1CMS FM and 1WAY FM. Finalisation of the site, which also required the establishment of a new microwave studio-to-transmitter link relayed via Black Mountain, has required hundreds of hours of work.

All three stations went live to air from Poppet Hill under approved ACMA transitional Apparatus Licences that have now been replaced with permanent licences.

Whilst all stations initially received a small number of reports of impaired reception from listeners in some areas behind mountains, and to the West Belconnen area as was expected, the response by listeners has been generally positive with a wider and clearer signal across the majority of the region, with many new listeners reporting "first ever" receipt of the higher power signals. It has been found that in some areas of poor main signal reception, problems can be ameliorated by tuning to alternative translator frequencies or by use of the streaming services. For line of sight locations, the signal range has been significantly improved over the previous low power Black Mountain site.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Studio development

During 2014, ArtSound has been involved in discussions with artsACT about the proposed relocation of the Manuka Arts Centre to the Kingston Arts Precinct. While we understand that any such move is likely to be at least three years away, decisions on how this would be planned and funded will need to be considered carefully.

Service outages

Apart from a few outages beyond its control, ArtSound has maintained on air service full time.

Website and social media

The ArtSound FM website, maintained by staff and volunteers, continues to make a valuable contribution to our listener interaction, coupled with the use of Twitter and Facebook.

The site has been a significant portal for payment of membership fees, donations during the annual Radiothon and continues to provide useful audience feedback.

Some Down in the Basement programs trialed new interactive web-based music software (AMRAP Pages to encourage greater audience involvement in program delivery.

VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINING

Volunteers

The station's capacity to broadcast with the quality and reliability our listeners expect and deserve is reliant on our volunteer members in both on-air and the many off-air roles. As at June 2015, Artsound had some over 90 regular volunteers, whose tasks included:

- Presenting live and recorded programs;
- Supporting and presenting outside broadcasts;
- Organising major fundraising events;
- Answering listener enquiries about program content and station policies;
- Providing office assistance and telephone support;
- Maintaining the membership database;
- Copy-writing, reviewing and updating audio promotional and sponsorship messages ;
- Maintaining technical facilities;
- Representing ArtSound as part of the media team and recording at the annual National Folk Festival and other venues;
- Producing the volunteers e-newsletter *Pink Peril* ;
- Cataloguing and maintaining our extensive music library;
- Participating in ArtSound committees;
- Running Training courses for new presenters and seniors trainees; and
- Implementing special projects, including the Silver Memories audio streaming project.

With an average of nearly 10 hours of live broadcasts per day, and several hours each week of locally-produced arts program, the value of contributed volunteer hours is substantial. Excluding estimates of volunteer hours for special events such as the annual Radiothon, a very conservative estimate of the volunteer time is:

- 180 hours per week for live music programs;
- 10 hours per week in roster coordination;
- 55 hours per week for locally-produced arts programs and diaries; and
- 100 hours per week of volunteer work by staff.

This totals some 345 hours a week, or more than 17,250 hours per year.

Many of our volunteers have busy lives in other areas, and their availability for rostered ArtSound FM duties varies from daily to weekly, to once per month or on special events. We acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who contribute to the successful operations of ArtSound. Of particular note:

Support Roles

Gabriela Cabral	Training
Bernadette Brennan	Training
Gabrielle Burns	Library Cataloguing & CD of Week Coordinator
Marilyn Chapple	APRA Report Coordination
Chris Deacon	Outside Broadcasts, Recording & Training
Peter Field	Library Catalogue Technical Support & Training

Terry Gieseke	<i>Pink Peril</i> newsletter editor and Training
Colleen Hills	Broadcast Assistant
Gerry Kay	Archiving
Brian Leonard	Training
Jeannie McLellan	Library Cataloguing
Bill Oakes	Outside Recording
Rick Rand	Library Cataloguing
Vince Robinson	CD of the Week Coordinator
Annabel Wheeler	Outside Recording & Library Cataloging
Clinton White	Training and Special Event MC

Program Coordinators 2014-15

- Judy Baker - *Patchwork*
- Phil Birch-Marston - *Arts Café, Aladdin's Cave*
- Chris Deacon - *Music Works, Friday Night Live, the Sound Space, National CRN & international syndicated programs, outside broadcasts*
- Graham Freeman *Music Collector*
- Eric Harrison - *Classical Mood*
- John Henderson - *Swingtime*
- Alex Imashev – *Across the Tracks*
- Francis Mahanay - *Down in the Basement, Kaleidoscope*
- Luke McWilliam – *Movie Club*
- Greg Mitchell - *Sounds Classical*
- Bill Oakes – *Discovery, At the National*
- Allison Pyke - *Gimme Gimme Gimme*
- Barbie Robinson - *Meridian and Sounds Early*
- Vince Robinson then Stephen James - *World Vibe*
- Richard Scherer - *Artcetera*
- Bill Stephens - *Dress Circle, Gershwin Project*
- Kathy Syrette (with assistance from Colleen Hills) - *Disc Drive*
- David Webb - *Tapestry*
- Annabel Wheeler - *Concert Hall*
- Len Power - *Broadway Yearbook*
- David Webb - *Tapestry*

Technology Team

- Rodger Bean
- Chris Deacon
- Neal Gowen
- Tony Hunter
- Floyd Patterson

Training

ArtSound FM's Introduction to Broadcasting courses run for one night on each of five weeks, with the training covering the core topics of ArtSound Philosophy and Facilities, Studios and Equipment, the Broadcasting Framework, Studio Operations, Presentation Style and Vocal Techniques, Planning and Producing a Program, and the Role of Program Coordinators. This course was offered twice during 2014/15

ArtSound Presenters also had the opportunity to participate in two CMTO training courses. These Courses were presented by accredited CMTO trainers and were coordinated by Judy Baker.

Other courses offered in-house included Cool Edit Production Techniques and multi-track music recording provided by Chris Deacon.

Special thanks are due to the trainers, mentors, coordinators, office staff and volunteers who assisted with the courses.

FUNDING

ACT Government

artsACT

ArtSound appreciates the continued commitment of artsACT, which has allocated Program funding of about \$67,000 for each of 2014 and 2015. artsACT also provides ArtSound's tenancy at the Manuka Arts Centre.

Multicultural Participation Grant

ArtSound won a very small grant of \$1,800 towards promotion of music artists in the ACT from diverse cultural backgrounds through radio.

Community Broadcasting Foundation

Transmission Subsidy Grant

Each year the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) offers ArtSound FM a grant towards defraying some of the costs of hiring commercial transmission sites at Black Mountain and Mt Taylor, with the new site at Poppet Hill coming into the grant process for the 2015 application. We again received a subsidy in 2014/15 for \$14,889. Proportionate to our actual expenses, transmission subsidies are expected to continue to drop in future due to the larger pool of stations seeking subsidy nationwide putting pressure on CBF's resources available for this purpose.

General Station Grant

ArtSound received a CBF grant of \$10,000 under this category in 2014/15 for Salary Subsidy to assist in increasing the level of sponsorships and donations. Due to a change in staff in October 2014 the term of this grant has been extended to December 2015.

Transmission Equipment Grant

As part of the technology upgrades required to support the move to Poppet Hill ArtSound also received a CBF grant for \$5,767 to assist in the purchase of Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) equipment to support the transmission chain

If you Remember The 60's Night

In April 2015 several ArtSound members came together to organise an *If You Remember The 60's* social evening. It was held at the Eastlake Football Club, with all funds raised going to ArtSound. The very popular Canberra-based a Capella group *Credo* gave their time gratis to entertain the 160 guests, as did our very own John Fanning with his reminisces about his days in the UK & Europe as a 'roadie' for several British groups and artists, and other visiting pop personalities. In addition, the ArtSound 'jukebox' played some of the greatest hits of the 60's, and over 200 album covers decorated the walls, blending with the helium balloons and mood lighting. The venue was free-of-charge, reflecting ArtSound's close relationship with the Eastlake FC; and overall a net \$2,444 was raised from the evening. The event also made media headlines as the *social event of the week!*

Summer Garden Concert

The Events and Promotions Committee organized a summer garden concert at the Manuka Arts Centre with local band Back to Basics performing in the garden setting. Members and guests enjoyed the great music, the bar and nibbles and listeners who could not attend in person were able to enjoy the event as part of the afternoon was made available through live broadcast.

Radiothon 2014

The major fundraising event of the year was the Annual Radiothon with the finale being the Open Day and Music and Book Fair. This event involves a huge effort from coordinators, with particular thanks to Judy Baker and Barbie Robinson for taking on this role and ensuring the team of volunteers both presenters and behind the scenes are engaged and supported; and the Book and Music Fair Coordinators Peter Sullivan and Bert Whelan.

In addition to the many volunteers who work tirelessly during the Radiothon particular thanks goes to the Marathon Team of Nick Baldwin and Clinton White. This very special feature of the 2014 Radiothon proved a real success in lifting the Radiothon during the usually quiet mid-week period and ensured some mad cap fun was also had by all involved.

Special thanks go to the many sponsors who contributed prizes and support as part of the Radiothon.

Arts Partnership Arrangements in 2014-15

Through the Arts Partnership program, ArtSound continues to forge relationships with cultural organisations with the aim of supporting local arts. Arts Partnerships provide ArtSound with an opportunity to take a lead role as the media partner in Canberra's music and arts community.

Arts Partners

- Art Song Canberra
- Artists Society of Canberra
- ANU Choral Society (SCUNA)
- Canberra Blues Society
- Canberra International Music Festival
- Canberra Jazz Blog
- Canberra Jazz Club
- COZMO - Capital of Australia Mandolinata
- Jazz In Concert at The Gods Cafe
- Mirramu Creative Arts Centre
- Monaro Folk Society
- Music for Canberra
- PhotoAccess
- Royal School of Church Music (ACT Branch)
- Tuggeranong Arts Centre
- Wesley Music Centre

Sponsors

ArtSound FM is privileged to have a large number of organisations and individuals which recognise the station's important place in the Canberra community, as a promoter of the arts and provider of quality programming.

While the competition for sponsorship dollars continues to be quite strong and gaining new long-term sponsors continues to be a major challenge, we have seen a number of our major sponsors commit to a long term relationship and have had some short term but profitable arrangements with a number of others.

Our major sponsors

- Acoustic Piano Service
- Applied Cleaning Services
- Australian Festival of Chamber Music
- Australian Native Plant Society
- B2B Business Magazine
- Bungendore Woodworks Café & Gallery
- Canberra Symphony Orchestra
- CSG
- Duratone Hi Fi
- Hardwickes
- Infinite Networks
- King and Wood Mallesons
- Jirra Wines
- National Folk Festival
- National Gallery of Australia
- Palace Electric
- Rotary Club of Canberra East
- Security 1
- Regional Wine and Beverage Merchants
- Understanding Music Seminar