

Chairman's Report – Ron Trundle

****Today's Country 94.1****

The past year has been a rewarding one for Today's Country 94.1, marked by growth, recognition, and continued community support. We welcomed several new sponsors who are committed for the long term, providing vital stability for our volunteer-run organisation where financial sustainability is always front of mind.

At the Tamworth Country Music Festival, our station was once again honoured at the People's Choice Awards, winning 'Most Popular Country Station'. In addition, 'Friday Drive' was named a finalist, and Alan Gilmour received an OAM for his outstanding contribution to Australian country music — achievements that reflect the strength and dedication of our team.

Our annual talent search, 'Brand New Star', was successfully staged at Gosford RSL in a refreshed one-day format. The event drew praise from judges, sponsors, and industry professionals alike, and we congratulate Jimmy McGrath on being crowned this year's winner.

Several of our flagship programs continue to reach audiences nationwide through syndication on fellow community radio stations. These include Alan Gilmour's 'Australian Country Songwriters Show' and DK's 'Classic Country Show', further extending the influence of Today's Country 94.1.

Importantly, we have taken significant steps to strengthen our presence in the national country music landscape. Today's Country 94.1 is now one of only five stations directly impacting the Australian country music charts — and the only dedicated community country station among them, standing proudly alongside commercial broadcasters.

This year also marked a milestone in taking our station international. Ron and Jaq represented Today's Country 94.1 at CMA Fest in Nashville, giving us a presence on the global stage and building valuable connections with the U.S. country music industry. In addition, through the CBAA Community Hubs Grant, we successfully orchestrated two concerts that received fantastic reviews, further showcasing our ability to deliver high-quality events with community impact.

Our festival involvement has expanded regionally and interstate as well. Stu Elliott and Rob Hare joined myself and Jaq as MCs at the Gympie Music Muster, while Ron, and Jaq, contributed to live broadcasts and MC duties at Tamworth, including Fanzone and the Golden Guitar Awards. These opportunities highlight our growing role in connecting artists and audiences.

Sadly, we farewelled valued presenter and board member Lance Kennedy this year, and Kevin Conroy has stepped back from board duties. Their contributions are deeply appreciated and will be remembered.

On behalf of Coast Community Broadcasters, I extend heartfelt thanks to our Board, loyal listeners, sponsors, announcers, and volunteers. Your commitment ensures the station continues to thrive. We also acknowledge the ongoing support of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, which remains integral to our success.

Overall, it has been a positive year for Today's Country 94.1, and I am confident about the road ahead as we continue to grow, innovate, and champion country music in Australia and beyond.