

# Braidwood FM:

**Our community-owned radio station**

Rob Davidson, President Braidwood FM Inc.

On Australia Day 2003 Braidwood FM began broadcasting on a temporary licence from the roof of its studio in Wallace Street.

The premises were generously provided by Denver and Phil Shoemark at no cost to the radio. Its broadcast radius was 10km around Braidwood.

In November 2004 Braidwood FM was granted a Permanent Licence and began broadcasting from Mt. Gillamatong on 100 watts, with a broadcast radius (depending on geography, of up to 50 kms around Braidwood.

Those early days would not have been possible had it not been for the vision and passion of the small team who ran the station, and the generosity of the community and their support, both financially and in providing services to the station.

Community radio stations are Incorporated Associations and rely on support from their communities to exist and to grow, and the community of Braidwood has been a generous supporter of their very own radio station since its beginnings.

As an Incorporated Association, and a not-for-profit group, the radio's assets are not owned by any person or group. All the station's assets (building, equipment, outside broadcast caravan etc) are assets owned by the community, and managed by Braidwood FM Inc.

In 2014, plans were made to relocate the radio station to a more accessible location behind the squash courts at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club.

Over the next two years funds were raised to cover the estimated \$85,000 cost to have Mordek in Moruya construct and transport a purpose-built portable building, which could be located at the Club. It was made to be a portable building in case in some future time it needed to be relocated in order for the radio to grow and expand as the Club site space was limited.

Funds came from many sources: Braidwood Community Bank provided a grant of \$37,000; Veolia Mulwaree provided \$22,000; the NSW Government (John Barilaro) through the Community Building Partnerships Grant provided

\$12,400; Braidwood Lions donated \$2,000; Southern Phone donated \$5,000 to build the ramps and railings; and many individuals and businesses in Braidwood donated funds to the project.

Many tradespeople around Braidwood donated their services to install the electrical (Wayne Merriman), plumbing (Brian Kain), the piers the building stands on (Stephen Orford), building and installation of the ramps (Paul Henry), while still others donated their time to establish and maintain gardens around the building.

Braidwood FM came to the forefront during the 2019/20 bushfires, and was an invaluable source of localised information to the community, and the community showed its appreciation to the volunteers of the radio who manned the airwaves on rotation shifts for many weeks, giving hourly updates by speaking directly with the RFS about very specific areas.

Only a few months before the bushfires Braidwood FM was approved by the ACMA to increase its transmission power from 100 watts to 2,000 watts, which was invaluable when the bushfires came. There were still some 'black spots' where our transmissions couldn't reach and we are in the process of trying to rectify that situation.

If you would like to be a volunteer with Braidwood FM, we are always on the lookout for people who would like to assist. You might want to:

- be a presenter on air, and we provide full training at no cost to you;
- maintain our gardens;
- learn the technical side of the radio;
- go to outside broadcasts and speak with people about the radio as they pass by;
- promote and encourage people to become 'members' of the radio; or
- maybe you have skills you think you could use to help the station grow.

If you would like to offer your



[above] Braidwood FM's studio in Wallace Street, when it began broadcasting in Jan 2003. [below] The new studio during the 2019/20 bushfire emergency.



Darren Marks RFS with Rod McClure, Gordon Waters and Violet Wasson.

services as a volunteer, we are looking for people of all ages, and you should contact Gordon Waters on 0422 921 269 or info@braidwoodradio.com.au

2021 is Braidwood FM's 19th year of continuous broadcasting and it has all been made possible by the generosity and support of the

people of Braidwood and the surrounding region.

Be proud, all of you, as you have a wonderful and important community-owned asset that is a part of the dynamic fabric of Braidwood, and Braidwood FM volunteers look forward to providing the region with many more years of service.



## Program Guide

### Monday

5am - Good Morning Country  
 7am - Martins Morning Mix  
 4pm - Book Reading with Rod  
 5.30pm - The Green Horns with Nick, Violet & Hamish  
 8pm - It's Time  
 10pm - Aussie Music Weekly

### Tuesday

5am - Good Morning Country  
 7am - The Fred Nurk Show  
 3pm - Bunkem, Faves & Raves with Rod & Bill  
 4pm - A Breath Of Fresh Air  
 5pm - Top 200 of the 70's  
 6.30pm - Real World Gardener  
 7pm - The Billy Bob Show  
 9.30pm - Hot Sweet & Jazzy

### Wednesday

5am - Good Morning Country  
 7am - Martins Morning Mix  
 10am - The Magazine with Disko  
 3pm - Pop Heads  
 6pm - Woodsongs Old Time Radio  
 7pm - Magic Carpet Ride with Cool Bill

### Friday

5am - Good Morning Country  
 7am - The Morning Mix with Martin  
 12.00 - The long Lunch with Disko  
 3pm - The Greenhouse with Violet  
 5pm - The Atomic Countdown  
 7pm - Raised On Rock

### Sunday

7am - Sunday Classic with Martin  
 8am - Exploring the Classics with Barbara Jane  
 10am - Jazz on Sunday with Gavin  
 12.00 - Covers  
 3pm - Birds on a Wireless with Julie & Vera  
 6pm - Combined Church Service of Braidwood

### Thursday

5am - Good Morning Country  
 12.30pm - The Parish Pump  
 1pm - The Billy Bob Retro Countdown  
 3pm - The Hot 30  
 7pm - I love the 70's  
 8pm - Simply The 80's  
 9pm - Hero of the Zero's  
 10pm - Off the Record

### Saturday

9am - Mornings with Gavin & Roger  
 11.15am - The Parish Pump  
 12.00 - I love the 70's  
 1pm - A bit of this and that with Gavin  
 4pm - Blues in the Afternoon with Gavin  
 6pm - Saturday Night Gold

For a full listing go to [braidwoodradio.com.au](http://braidwoodradio.com.au)