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SIGNALS NEWSLETTER

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Thirteen months at the helm (and a revolution brewing)

As 2022 races to its close, I pause, draw breath and reflect what has proven to be a rewarding first year in my role as Radio 2RPH General Manager. I want to publicly register my gratitude to everyone in the 2RPH community, from our avid listeners to our many generous supporters, our committed Board and staff, and our outstanding volunteers.

Looking back over many years of professional involvement in broadcasting, public policy and advocacy, I can safely say that my 13 months as General Manager of Radio 2RPH have provided some of the most worthwhile, rewarding and challenging days in my career. During the first 3 weeks on the job, I recall meeting (from a safe distance) a sum total 9 of our then-active 132 on-air volunteers. It then took a whole month to become familiar with the masked faces of our station's part-time staff of 7. When I first signed-on last September, the station was still in full COVID lock down mode and I had to complete an online essential services declaration to travel outside my LGA in the South West to turn up for work each day to take the helm of the radio equivalent of the Marie Celeste. Yet the sheer skill and adaptability our station workforce ensured seamless continuity despite strict onsite capacity limits, remote live audio contribution and pre-recording/editing from home.

We fired up a new FM transmitter in December 2021 on a site north of Wollongong, and as a consequence our geographical footprint grew from the previous year by a factor of 134%. We now have the potential to reach 76% of the population of NSW. Once again, thanks to our willing and talented announcers and readers who have stepped up challenge of reading the Illawarra Mercury for our split feed into the Illawarra Region on 93.3FM. The challenge ahead will be to build our volunteer base and community presence in Wollongong itself. Our thanks go out to the Illawarra Mutual Bank Community Foundation for granting us funds to kick start a new training and program delivery initiative titled "Find Your Way" which will involve local volunteers.

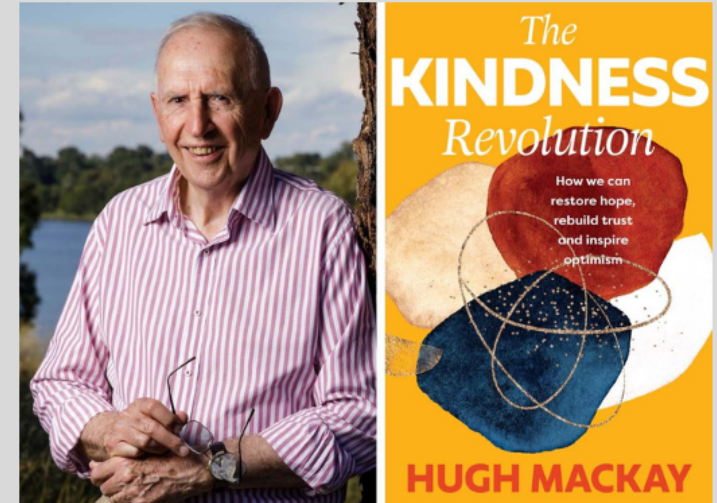
One of the highlights of the 2022 calendar was the launch in March by 2RPH's Vice Regal Patrons the Hon Margaret Beazley (Governor of NSW) and her husband Dennis Wilson of our new Illawarra service back in March. We now look forward a whole year to March 2023 when our patrons have invited us to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of 2RPH with an afternoon tea at Government House.

The end-of-year celebration last December at the Harold Park Community Hall was clearly one of the highlights of the festive calendar and so it shall be for 2022. On 2 December we are once again rallying the volunteers to celebrate another wonderful year. I am thrilled to report that the renowned social researcher and author, Hugh Mackay has enthusiastically accepted my invitation to provide a keynote speech drawn from his most recent work "The Kindness Revolution".

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Revolutions never start at the top. If we dare to dream of a more loving country - kinder, more compassionate, more cooperative, more respectful, more inclusive, more egalitarian, more harmonious, less cynical - there's only one way to start turning that dream into a reality: each of us must live as if this is already that country." **Hugh Mackay, Author**

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PS: If you think that crises and catastrophes often turn out to be the making of us, then you'll find his insights poignant and bound to resonate with the values of Radio 2RPH.

So many stories to tell and who better to tell them?

Fifty years ago the first community radio station 5UV Adelaide went to air and the rest, as they say, is history. Radio Adelaide was one of 12 stations issued a licence for what was then called public radio, by the Minister for Media under the Whitlam government, Moss Cass. Since the early days of Cass's Dozen, community radio has transformed into the largest and most diverse sector in Australian broadcasting. As of November 2022, there are 452 licensed services, including 16 full-time radio reading services in all states and territories.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of community radio, the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA), at its 2022 national conference in Cairns enlisted our 2RPH Chair, John Martin OAM to host a special video presentation (click below) in which he interviews nine key figures from the early days of the sector. Still looming large, the sector's esteemed champion, Tony Staley who was Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, tells how he singularly fast-tracked licensing of radio for the people by the people.

It's a powerful and compelling documentary, where we hear the stories of those, who like John, were around at the beginning of the seventies groundswell to diversify and democratise the Australian broadcasting system. He served on the Board of the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) for 22 years from 1990 to 2012, initially as Vice-President and CBF President from 1999 to 2012. Across many years of tireless unpaid effort John worked hard to forge a strong basis for sector sustainability and growth.

In 2011 John was awarded the CBAA's Michael Law Award which recognises individuals for their sustained and outstanding contribution to community broadcasting. Incidentally, 2RPH's General Manager, Barry Melville had been the 2008 recipient for the same award for his leadership in the sector over many years.

50th anniversary of community radio

2RPH Chair, John Martin OAM
interviews nine key figures

Click below to watch this
powerful and compelling documentary



WATCH - 50 Years of Community Radio: Telling Our Shared Story

2RPH volunteer Teresa Plane is the NSW Senior Australian of the Year

Congratulations to Teresa Plane for being awarded NSW Senior Australian of the Year 2023! As many of you know, Teresa joined Radio 2RPH in Glebe in 2016, trained as a reader and then went on to present two popular programs on a weekly basis:

- **Ageing with Attitude** (funded by the Older Women's Network and the Department of Ageing and Disability); and
- **Meditative Moments** (a deep reflection on life, death, and the universe).

Teresa trained as a community broadcaster at 83 years of age, after many years as a pioneer in palliative care nursing. Her passion and life-long journey began during a drive home from hospital as she listened to a life-changing interview with psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross discussing the five stages of dying. Teresa has wryly observed that she has always been a death-denying nurse! She went on to study palliative care methods overseas before opening a hospice and palliative care unit at Mt Carmel Hospital in Western Sydney in 1978. She later established Macquarie Hospice, a home care and day care centre and as an innovator and leader spoke many times at international forums, universities and conferences. As she approaches the age of 90, Teresa continues tirelessly as an advocate for innovation in palliative care, the rights of senior Australians and is an internationally acclaimed expert on the life well-lived.

All of us at Radio 2RPH are inspired by her commitment to volunteering, her passion for delivering insights and her role in encouraging us all to give back. Congratulations.



CONGRATULATIONS

Teresa Plane

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