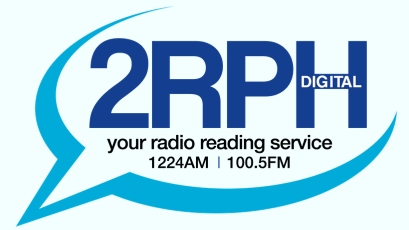


April 2021

# SIGNALS



FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO LISTEN!



## Making Disability Your Friend

*The story of a disadvantage that became a gift...*

Our popular Antiques Radio Show recently highlighted a remarkable personal disclosure by one of the art world's most fascinating historians. "I've never discussed being autistic before, even with my family," Bendor Grosvenor confessed in *The Art Newspaper* in March this year. When he was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome over a decade ago the TV presenter, author and former art dealer said he felt the term was tainted with stigma and shame. It was even once described as the "invisible disability" because no one liked to admit to it. Fortunately, this has been slowly dispelled as conversations about autism have become more public and informed. Indeed the "spectrum" of autistic behaviours have become so wildly popular with screenwriters and novelists, popping up in characters as diverse as Black Manta of the Aquaman series to television interpretations of Sherlock Holmes, that "being Aspergers" is now almost fashionable.

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**NEW GROWTH!**

*More about our next  
Donation Drive on  
page 3*

# Speaking With The Minister

*Protecting the most vulnerable Australians.....*

“Inclusive” and “accessible” are the buzzwords of 2021, but they are also deeply personal to Gareth Ward. One of the few Australian politicians to navigate his way into Parliament with a disability, Ward was born both albino and sight-impaired. He has degrees in commerce, arts and the law, and before entering state politics and eventually succeeding Prue Goward as the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, he was a councillor in Shoalhaven City Council.

Ablequest presenter Barbara Sullivan caught up with the Minister for an interview you can access via the 2RPH website or our podcast partners.

Speaking on the eve of a \$10 million funding boost for jobs and community participation for people living with disability, the Minister gave detailed responses to Ms Sullivan’s questions about continued funding for advocacy, possible changes to the NDIS forthcoming legislation and the extra challenges of COVID for people living with a disability.

Regarding the funding boost, Minister Ward was frank. “Look, as the first NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services to have lived experience with disability,” he said, “there was no way that I was going to leave some of our most vulnerable people, people that is, not in the NDIS, but who are needing mainstream support through advocacy - I was never going to leave them without those supports. So, I worked really hard to secure those funds over the next three years.”

The 2RPH interview with Minister Gareth Ward is presented by Ablequest, a program that looks at development in assistive technology. It is produced and presented by Barbara Sullivan and Marnie Roper.

**[Listen here](#)**



*One of the few Australian politicians to navigate his way into parliament with a disability*



## From the General Manager - Maximising Our Impact

For those looking to see more examples of new growth at 2RPH, the recent Ablequest interview with Gareth Ward is a brilliant example of the station’s evolving programming strategy for 2RPH.

“It’s so important that we maximise the potential of our content,” explains Sancha Donald. “By providing several different ways to access a scoop like the Gareth Ward interview, for instance, we are offering a better service for our listeners - a brief update during Breakfast on Disability News; an edited Ablequest version broadcast straight to air; or they can listen to the entire interview On Demand or via our podcast partners.”

# NEW GROWTH

## *Our next Donation Drive begins*

Thanks to our volunteers and supporters 2020 was an exemplary year for 2RPH. Despite Covid-19 the station has developed plans for new growth which will bring many changes as 2021 and 2022 unfold.

Our four flagship podcast programs are now available on Podbean, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Tune In. The station was able to upgrade systems and equipment – including cloud-computing capacity and faster internet. Additionally, we've invested in training and equipment to enable our volunteers to record from home.

So where do we go from here? Our **New Growth Donation Drive** launches this month and provides a few clues.

2RPH General Manager Sancha Donald says, "We want to provide the best text to radio experience not just a good one. And we know our supporters, volunteers and listeners will help us."

With fresh funds to expand our programs we'll be able to offer more content tailored to the changing needs of our listeners. We'll continue to develop income streams such as 2RPH Audio Books. And expand our broadcasting to Brokers' Nose in Wollongong which has the potential to reach 300,000 more listeners in the Illawarra.

While the current premises has provided a real home to 2RPH for many years, the stairs and narrow door-ways, and the lack of studio space don't accommodate people with physical disabilities or anyone using a wheelchair. The hunt for more accessible space is on.

Autumn is traditionally a time of falling leaves and introspection, but at 2RPH we are focused on the promise of **New Growth**.

## Sponsor Spotlight

Each month we honour  
our loyal 2RPH sponsors



The Senior Rights Services is a wonderful community focused organisation with a mission to create a society that respects and upholds the rights of older Australians. By providing legal services, aged care advocacy and community education, as well as free and confidential telephone advice, Senior Rights Services empowers our community elders to feel included, proactive and engaged in Australian society.

Call 1800424079 or visit the [website](#)



## NETWORKING

### The RPH network connects text-to-radio stations all over Australia

It provides a forum for over 20 organisations. 2RPH General Manager Sancha Donald recently attended a meeting at which representatives shared new initiatives and discussed some of the issues impacting their services.

"It was actually great to get some perspective on how we share and source content with other stations," she told Signals. "2RPH exports more than 90 different programs to the network and uses 15 programs produced by Network colleagues. It's very satisfying to see that the programs we're producing are meeting the needs of listeners not only in NSW but Tasmania, Queensland, the ACT and Victoria." Many of the RPH station managers shared stories about how they had coped with Covid restrictions last year, and how programming was affected by the pandemic.

"It was fascinating to see how much creative energy went into developing these new programs in such an environment," said Ms Donald. "We all felt invigorated by the experience."

# Meet Tariro - our new content manager



Tariro Kupara is a woman of so many talents we have no doubt she is going to illuminate 2RPH with much more than her dazzling smile. With a Bachelor of Commerce, Tariro has also worked as a Chartered Accountant and tax advisor and was previously Chief Financial Officer at Hargreaves Property Development group, and Finance Manager at Microsoft Brookfield Global. Deciding to take a break and make a career change just two years ago, Tariro discovered a passion for stand-up comedy while studying for a Cert 3 in Screen and Media. A radio presenter herself she understands pre-record nerves, program anxiety and promo-fatigue. Tariro says diversity and contemporary music are two of the passions she hopes to share with 2RPH listeners. If you have an idea for a new program, Tariro says, “I would be delighted to discuss it with you.”



## Making Disability Your Friend

Continued from page one...

The teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg has described her autism as “a super power”.

Grosvenor too says he has come to see autism “as a blessing” which has gifted him with a spectacular career.

“My fascination with portraiture grew out of the social awkwardness many people with autism encounter,” he explained. Haunting the National Portrait Gallery of London as a teenager, he created “a world of characters I could interact with on my own terms”. The lonely young Grosvenor felt that the people in the paintings didn’t judge him. Instead, they became the friends he couldn’t make

in the outside world.

These relationships developed the curiosity of mind and the powers of observation that eventually led him to discover long lost art works by Rubens and Breughel and become a specialist dealer in Old Masters.

Grosvenor is now calling for better resources to create a smoother path into museums for others who are similarly disadvantaged .....or advantaged.

Don’t miss this wonderful story about how a bunch of old paintings became Bendor Grosvenor’s best friends and turned him into an advocate for any “disadvantaged” art lovers who relish the world of the Old Masters as much as he does.

**Listen to the podcast: [AntiqueRadioShow#30](#)  
Antiques Radio Show is broadcast at 5.30 every  
Monday and is repeated two weeks later.**