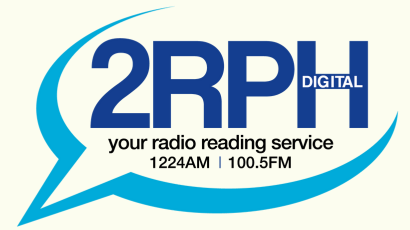


June 2021

SIGNALS



FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO LISTEN!



Arts Activated Conference August 9,16,23 2021 Online + Live

NEW GROWTH HAS BEEN A TRIUMPH

Thank You to everyone who supported our Donation Drive - we surpassed our target!



Activate Your Light

Covid has delivered silver linings - let's celebrate!

Despite the rush to get back to normal, the *Arts Activated Conference* in August this year will focus on the gains from the Covid shutdowns, not the losses.

"The pandemic has hit our arts and disability communities so hard," concedes classical musician, consultant and interim CEO of Arts Activated, Morwenna Collett. "But the silver linings, especially for people living with disability have been remarkable."

"Able-bodied people have had to adapt overnight to restrictions which would have been deemed unacceptable to the mainstream in the past," Ms Collett points out.

"As a result, Australians have learnt a lot about access and inclusiveness in a short space of time. I believe that has been a real game changer."

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Robert Escourt AM

He Is Honoured

Nominating a person to be awarded as a Member of the Order of Australia can take two years. Even though Robert Escourt had been asked for his CV some time ago, the 2RPH Board member and Chair of both the Investment Advisory and Finance and Risk Committees, was quite surprised when the news came through that he had been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours this year for his contribution to financial management.

"I thought perhaps I was being nominated to another board. I certainly didn't expect to become a Member of the Order of Australia. It's a wonderful accolade. But look at all the community work my fellow board member Ken Bock does. That's what I think is important to recognise."

Robert has been with 2RPH for several years after a long and productive career in the commercial sector.



"It was pure accident you know, getting involved with 2RPH. Ken tapped me to become a reader, and then I was asked to take a look at the finances."

Robert is modest about the way 2RPH has been restructured under his watch with attention paid to creating new income streams, conserving capital and generally maintaining financial discipline.

"If you look at the work Phillipa and I have done," he says referring to accounts manager Phillipa Ward, "it's pretty simple. If you can't count the beans, you can't manage the beans. It can be quite difficult to find them, but then it's just a matter of putting the beans in the right boxes."

A grandfather of seven, with one on the way, Robert insists, "I'm a very boring person. I'm just busy keeping the family happy and the cash flowing so I can afford to spend more time with 2RPH!"



Board Seeks Talent

The 2RPH Board is seeking to appoint at least two new non-Executive Directors to fill casual vacancies prior to a further vote at the AGM for an initial three-year term. Appointment is anticipated to commence in the second half of 2021. We are keen to appoint new Directors who have a good understanding of governance, finance/fund-raising and broadcasting. People with lived experience of disability, and in particular women and those with print disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Meeting on a bi-monthly basis in Sydney our board, and small management team, is collegiate and operates in an environment of teamwork and enthusiasm to provide programs that are varied, informative and entertaining. Our directors are driven by a strong set of ethical values and a clear vision to form valuable collaborative partnerships.

If you have the skills and an interest in joining the 2RPH Board then please contact either:

RPH Chair: Di Collins on dcollins@2rph.org.au (mobile 0411 013 038) or

2RPH Secretary: Geraldine Menere on gmenere@2rph.org.au (mobile 0403 262 829).

Activate Your Light

Continued from page one

Covid has taught us that diversity is an asset



Morwenna Collett, Acting CEO Arts Activated

The conference has embraced hybrid innovations such as the Melbourne Digital Concert Hall which brought live and online into a shared communal space last year. Participants will (hopefully) have access to live events on the Western Sydney University campus as well as an array of online workshops, key notes and panel discussions.

Aimed first at creatives and administrators, Collett says Arts Activated "also wants to cultivate allies in the disability sector, in government, and amongst researchers and students."

"The program sessions address themes including research and cultural safety. Workshops are such as the Disability Leadership (supported by the Australia Council) offer practical tools and support. Others like the "access rider" session empower by showing how artists can gain control over the conditions under which they perform.

"Covid proved that diversity is an asset not a negative," says Ms Collett. "That's why we called the conference *Building Back For Everyone* this year."



Sponsor Spotlight

Each month we feature our loyal 2RPH sponsors

The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission proudly sponsors the 2RPH program, *Ageing with Attitude* - brought to you fortnightly by Teresa Plane. For information, support, or to report concerns of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older people and adults with disability in their family, home and the community anyone can make a confidential call to the **Ageing and Disability Abuse Helpline** on 1800 628 221.

2RPH is expanding to Wollongong and the Illawarra

General Manager Sancha Donald reports on our recent liaison with community groups tuning into 2RPH from September this year

Our plans to broadcast to Wollongong from the last quarter of 2021 received a very warm reception from Edward Brit, CCO of Disability Trust and Nicky Sloan, CEO of Community Industries Group. Both organisations were pleased to facilitate introductions



to a wide group of community organisations and were supportive of our plans to include local presenters and local content as early as possible. Earlier discussions have been held with Melanie Gibbons MP, Parliamentary Secretary and James Malin, Policy Advisor and the Wollongong Lord Mayor, Mr. Gordon Bradbery AM. Initially we will broadcast to Wollongong between 1300 and 1400 on weekdays.

Program Spotlight

Travel Time

with Yvonne Hazell



Special deals and the delights of wishful thinking have become the mainstays of *Travel Time*, the popular 2RPH program presented by one of our longest serving volunteers, Yvonne Hazell.

“I have always tried to look after the armchair travellers,” says Yvonne, “because many of our listeners have mobility issues, but now with the Covid crisis continuing, we are all in the same boat.”

Few people have as rich a memory palace to dust off and revisit as Yvonne, who started in the travel industry in Britain in the 1960s.

“The famous British archeologist, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, approached our travel company to set up some archeological cruises to Greece because there were no airports in the Mediterranean then. If you wanted to explore the Turkish coastline or the Greek islands you literally had to go by boat and then ride a donkey or walk.”

In those days travelling really did require a certain attitude that Yvonne feels the modern industry has lost. “I hope we start to really value the adventure again,” she says. “Ephesus was so unspoiled. And every year I went back they had excavated more sites – libraries, theatres, whole towns. It’s awful to see the lack of respect for these ancient places today – the rubbish and the degradation.”



With the emphasis on exploring Australia in the foreseeable future, Yvonne hopes we can foster a new appreciation and respect for the diversity of experience available in this country.

“We’ve really got it all in Australia,” she says. “Deserts, forests, coral reefs. Tasmania reminds me of the South of England where I grew up, but the Kimberly is so magical, and utterly unlike anywhere else on earth.”

Yvonne’s decades of experience as a travel and real estate agent means *Travel Time* is full of tips – such as the best position for a berth on *The Ghan*.

“If you want a good night’s sleep on a train, you need to be in the middle so you’re not rattling over the wheels. On a cruise you should avoid any cabin near the lifts or the laundry.”

She also keeps an eye out for bargains.

“I mention special deals whenever I can – there are some great opportunities coming up in Margaret River. Cruising was due to return this month. It’s been postponed till October, but you can still find cheap cruises.

Yvonne likes to keep the mix full of surprises when planning the show.

“I slip in a retro *Wish We Were Wherever* every now and then. I do book reviews. Coming up I’m looking at truffle hunting in Tassie, and wineries around Canberra.”

After 26 years with 2RPH as a news reader, and 4 years on *Travel Time* Yvonne says she is loving her so-called retirement.

“I have 7 grandchildren so life is full. I’m really enjoying it. Most of all I like reading, and researching my radio program.”

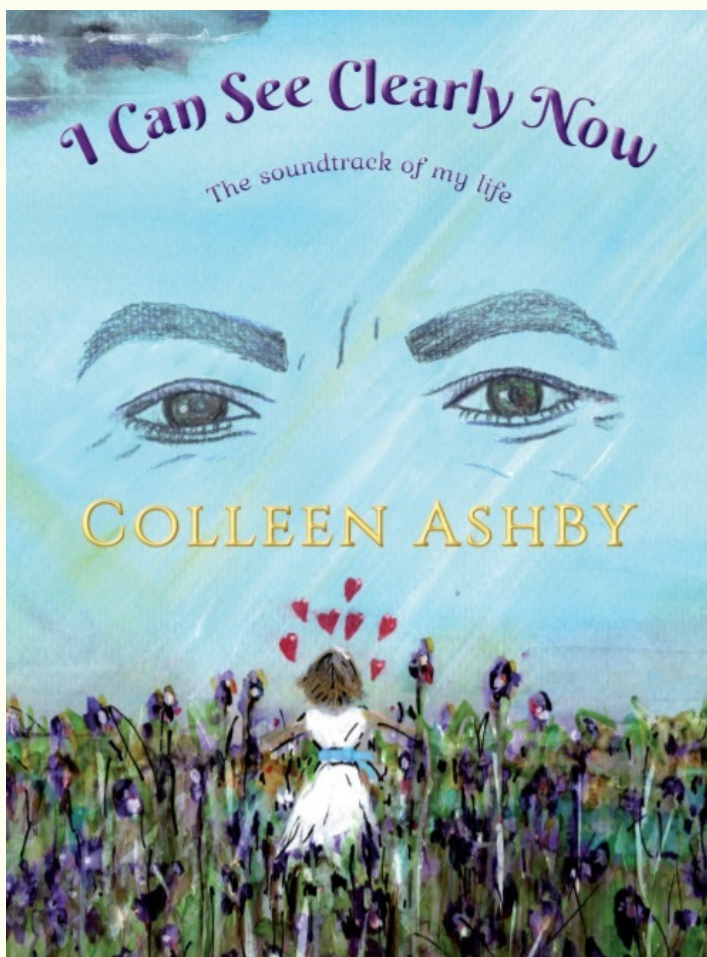
Travel Time is broadcast weekly at 2:30pm each Wednesday afternoon, repeated the following Saturday night at 8pm.

The Word Is Out

2RPH Audio-Books Services Creates Something Unique

The new audio studio was buzzing at 2RPH in the week's preceding the latest Covid lockdown, with two new audio books in production simultaneously. Head of 2RPH Audio-Book Services, Maria Issaris, was everywhere at once, conducting three narrators and two audio engineers. Fortunately, the projects were nearing completion just as the Covid Delta Variant made studio sharing a problem again.

"The way the team pulled together," says Maria,



"was really impressive. Our technical officer, Marty Peploe and our audio-books collaborator Martin Gallagher created a work flow that enabled us to meet the highest global standards for audio book production with relative ease and absolute accuracy."

Finishing touches have been made to *I Can See*

Clearly Now, by Colleen Ashby narrated by Caroline George. Maria is also finalising *Hope - An Anthology of New Authors 2021* by Omne Publishing. It's the second 2RPH project to upload to Audible, since Kylie Attwell's *Find your Purpose, Change your Life* made the grade in April.

"2RPH produces talented volunteers such as Colin Stephenson," says Maria, "who have the expertise to step up to projects like this. We were also fortunate to find Tsu Shan Chambers, an optometrist-turned-screenplay writer, who narrated the female voices for *Hope*."

Having just submitted a quote to the NSW Department of Communities and Justice for Volume 7 of *Seniors Stories 2021*, Maria is feeling exhausted but very pleased to have passed these milestones.

"As well as the audio team, these projects have tested the whole organisation," she says. "From the General Manager, Sancha Donald and her meticulous oversight of the station's resources to Janine Penfold who is a narrator and 2RPH volunteer who has helped with the administration. I'm delighted to say that as well as performing its function as a not-for-profit, 2RPH has proved it has the knowledge base to forge a brand new business and develop a streamlined process which I believe is unique.

"As far as I know, we are the first Australian commercially viable audio book business outside of the big publisher-owned/operated production houses. And we are ready to start marketing our product seriously."

If you'd like to learn the ropes of this fast-developing new venture, Maria is looking for volunteers interested in assisting narrators. This would involve reading the scripts and some minor editing during narration. Don't delay. The word is out!

Contact Maria at: missaris@2rph.org.au.



Presenter Profile

Zev Fink

Zev Fink has seen a lot of positive changes at 2RPH since he started volunteering 5 years ago.

“Sancha Donald has made a very big difference since she started as General Manager,” he notes.

“We got air-con in the cutting room for a start. It used to be a sweat box!”

“But seriously,” he adds. “The diversity of the programs has really improved. A wonderful show like *New Voices* would have been unheard of 4 years ago.”

Zev has also noticed the profile of the station is rising.

“We seem to be knocking back volunteers these days. When I started in rostering, we were always struggling to get a voice to the mic.”

Originally Fink answered an ad in Volunteers Australia on a whim. He had retired after thirty-five years as an engineer in water management and wanted something different to do when he wasn't tinkering with his banjo and mandolin.

“I've always been interested in news and current affairs but I'd never really listened to radio. To be honest I hadn't even heard of 2RPH. But I immediately found I enjoyed the community.”

After his stint on rostering Zev started as a reader. He became an announcer two years ago.

“2RPH has a really well managed induction system,” he says. “You have a mentor, you sit in on

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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Our Membership Drive runs 28 June – 31 July

Active: \$33 a year

Concession: \$16.50

Corporate: \$110

Call the station on (02) 9518 8811 during business hours (9am to 5pm) Monday to Friday. OR download the form on the website membership page.



other programs, and when you start operating a panel there is someone backing up your every move. It gave me a lot of confidence to multi-task on air and not feel overwhelmed.” This confidence has led to new opportunities for Zev. He recently sent a demo to Eastside Radio 89.7fm, another inner city community radio station which serves the Sydney music scene, and he was delighted to find his proposal for a late night ambient music show was approved by the board.

“I actually put musical breaks into all the programs I work on at 2RPH whenever I can and I'd love to hear more music on the station,” admits the Bluegrass fan.

“I'm pretty thrilled to be exploring this new avenue but I won't be leaving 2RPH. The station has given me so much.”

