

A History of 2REM *Community Radio*

ALLAN R. WILSON





ALBURY-WODONGA COMMUNITY RADIO

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Quantum Printing
www.quantumprinting.com.au

DESIGNED BY
Wmedia
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2020, 2REM 107.3FM

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2REM FM RADIO ETTAMOGAH

In the Beginning

The first moves to establish a community radio station was in 1975. Ultimately the Community Radio Albury/Wodonga Co-operative Society Ltd was formed in 1978. It had a board of seven directors responsible for policy and administration through several committees, and acting on behalf of some 230 individual shareholders and 24 organisations.

Relating to that infamous first broadcast presented by David Orames, he was instructed by Don Tynan, to incorporate a selected classical piece of music during his program known as the Great Gate of Kiev, initially composed by renowned Russian Petrovich Mussorgsky.

Even then, it became apparent that one day the station's commitment to increasing its community coverage and would eventually mean moving to larger premises. In early 1984, we prepared for our relicensing hearing, a building meeting for all our needs came to our notice. It required little modification but did require planning rezoning, leaving us to the mercies of bureaucracies for about six months. During this time we were relicensed for the maximum period of three years and were eventually able to lease our new premises.

Borella Road *Location*



243 BORELLA ROAD, ALBURY NSW

In a sense 243 Borella Road, Albury was indeed a homecoming because it was, the address of Dr Don Tynan's veterinary practice. Don was the founder of and principal motivator behind the community radio project from 1975.

List of Directors

1978: Noelle Oke (first Chairman) Terry Hillman, Barry Morwood (Lawyer), Steve Kynoch, David Orames, Judy Veenhof and Don Tynan.

Community Radio 2REM-FM
Official Opening of the New Studios
at
243 Borella Road, Albury
on
Friday, 29th March, 1985.
Proceedings
2.30pm - Entertainment
- Scots School Pipe Band
- German Dancers
3.00pm - Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Mrs. Noelle Oke.
- Welcome - Deputy Mayor of the City of Albury
Ald. Mick Ried.
- Introduction - Mr. Tim Fischer, M.P.,
Member for Farrer.
- Hon Michael Duffy, M.P.,
Federal Minister for Communications.
- Vote of Thanks - Mr. Harold Mair, M.P.,
Member for Albury.
Afternoon Tea will be served following the Official Opening.
All visitors are invited to join us.
The Station will be open for visitors to inspect. May we
request your cooperation in being quiet in the corridors
if a red light is showing.



The Borella Road location boasts four studios three were in operation. Studio No 3, the D.A. Tynan Studio, was developed as a production and sound facility for all sectors of the community. Also, it included a spacious library, a meeting room, recreation area, plus other necessary things such as administrative and technical rooms. The Albury/Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council had space for its wide range of activities, of which broadcasting is one major element. These premises are not only twice as large as Ettamogah, but they are also twice as convenient and modern.

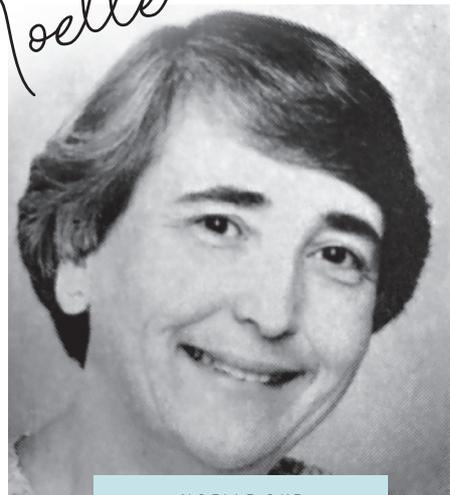
The Federal Communications Minister Mr Michael Duffy Officially opened the Borella Road studios on the 29th March 1985, around 150 people attended the opening.



DON TYNAN

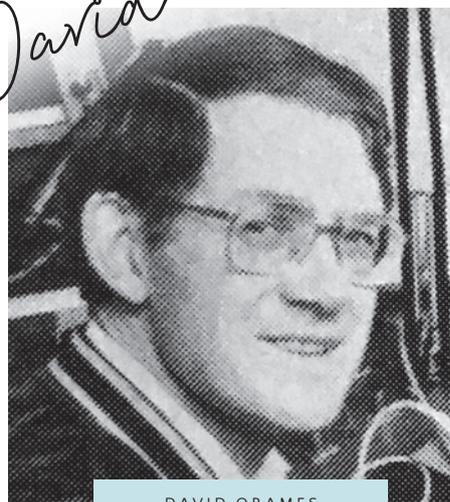
Don

Noelle



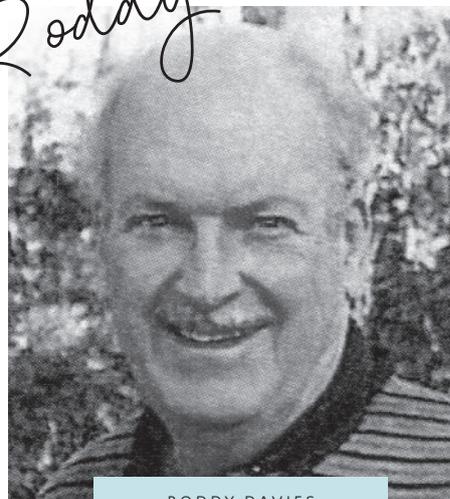
NOELLE OKE

David



DAVID ORAMES

Roddy



RODDY DAVIES

Community Broadcasting

During the past 40 years of community broadcasting, ordinary people most of whom have never sat behind a microphone before were suddenly “on-air” presenting a wide variety of programs for our listening audience. Looking back over time 2REM-FM, had accumulated many talented presenters. And eventually, some would move on seeking careers in commercial radio and television.

Notable names as Ian Becker: News Co-ordinator with channel 7 (now Prime), Lars Peterson 2AY Albury & 2WS Sydney, Steve James 2AY Albury, Mark Rosevear B104.9 & The River 105.7 Albury, Peter Davies 2AY & The River 107.5, Brad George B104.9, Jason Mathey B104.9, Loretta Smit 2RG Griffith, Samantha Blair 2WG Wagga and Gaye Patterson ABC Broadcaster with ABC Alice Springs.

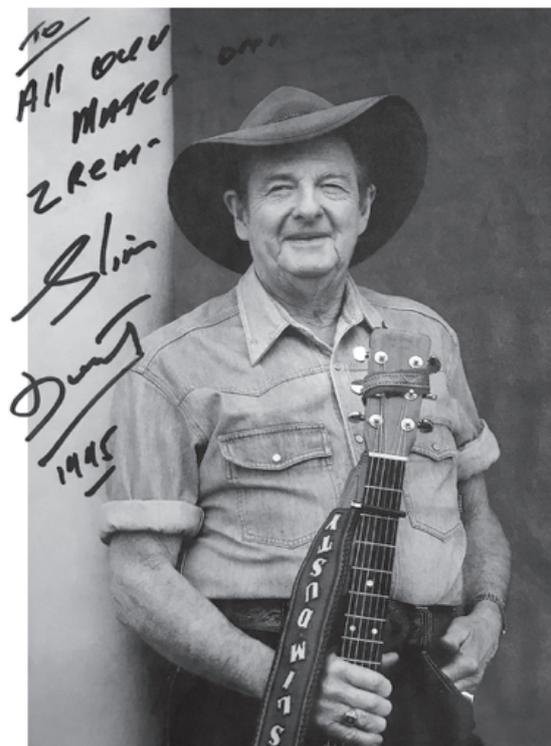
Note: Names submitted were researched from a *Twenty Years History Booklet* dated 1980-2000, courtesy of Nancy Hodgess.

I wish to make special mention concerning Gaye Patterson, and her involvement with the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation). Her association with the Government-funded organisation continues to this very day. Gaye has had a long and successful career with the ABC, is a popular presenter and currently she holds a new position of Chief of Staff at ABC Goulburn Murray.



RAY AND LEE KERNAGHAN

2REM-FM, has mainly been a popular country music broadcaster, having a large following of listeners, throughout the region. Country was better known back in the day as Country and Western, Ray Kernaghan, presented this unique genre of music back in the early 1980s. Ray later went on to become a country music performer, recording many albums. He makes no secret of the fact that his success can be attributed in no small way to Keith Melbourne’s guidance and dedication relating to his career.



SLIM DUSTY 1995

Mr Country!

Another great Country presenter came along in the '80s he was better known as "Mr. Country" Keith Melbourne. His vast knowledge of country music was most enlightening, particularly coming over the airwaves, and drawing a broad listening audience around Albury/Wodonga and surrounding districts. His program *Sunday Morning Country Show* which commenced at 10:00 am and concluded at noon.

The station also incorporated an additional *Country Music Hour*, hosted by Keith and was heard on Friday afternoons from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Looking back to the year 1982, Keith originally had presented a Thursday morning FM breakfast show titled *Snap, Crackle & Pop*, the timeslot was from 6:10 am to 7:30 am. However his number one priority was country music. He became a popular broadcaster with 2REM FM as he was recognised and admired by so many country performing artists throughout Australia at that particular time.

Aussie country artists would be welcomed to 2REM-FM, to converse with on-air interviews arranged by Keith, frequent telephone linkups with performers were part of his program as well. Notable names such as Slim Dusty, Diana Trask, Buddy Williams, Chad Morgan, Ray Kernaghan, John Williamson, Gordon Parsons, Beccy Cole, Gina Jeffreys, Donna Fisk, Colin Millington, Kevin Shegog, Johnny Chester, Lee Kernaghan and many more.

Since Keith's involvement began with country music, it had taken him all over Australia and to Nashville in the United States. During his visit there he interviewed the greats of country music, including Hank Snow, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, the Carter family and Jeanie C. Riley.



In January 1998, Keith was notified of his induction into The Tamworth Country Music Hall of Fame; the nomination award came under the category of *Broadcasting*.

Keith all of us at 2REM 107.3 and your many listeners are so proud of your many wonderful achievements in a lifetime dedicated to Country Western, there is no one we know of more deserving of the recognition and 107.3 is the richer for having your services.

Tony Rumble, Board Chairman

He later had accepted two positions during his association with 2REM FM, firstly as Station manager in (1997 to 2005) and secondly Promotions manager (1998 to 2005)

Keith was awarded Life Membership of 2REM FM, joining two other volunteer members Roddy Davies and Don Tynan.

Keith Melbourne's family also played a significant role with 2REM FM, his three sons Graeme, Tony and Gary (horse racing broadcaster), and his granddaughter Lana, who achieved a history-making moment with the station, by becoming a presenter at the young age of 14. A remarkable achievement indeed; her genre of music was '60s & '90s.



NANCY HODGESS

Last but not least, a very special mention to our four female presenters of Country Music. Nancy Hodgess hit the airwaves with *Rockin Country*, on Sunday's 10:00 am to noon, Eileen Middleton commenced her Sunday mornings with *Honky Tonk Heaven*, 6:00 am to 10:00 am. Eileen's program continues to this present day, from 6:00 am until noon.

Joy Metcalf conducts two programs per week. Thursday mornings with *Joys Music Mix*, a variety of music from the '60s and '70s including country songs. On Saturday morning Joy presents *Aussie Country* (Australian artists only), 8:30 am to 11:30 am, the program is aired during the summer months.

Nancy

Cheryl Robb, a newcomer to 2REM FM, commenced with us in 2013 and adapted herself to radio, presenting a variety of new and traditional country music. Her programs are: *Cool Country Sundays*, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm plus filling in for country music presenters who in some cases were ill or on holidays. Diverting away from her country music scene Cheryl has hosted *Friday Night Jukebox* and has become a regular presenter of the program.

2REM FM 2019 - 2020: Additional Country Music Presenters & Programs: Bernie Jones *Country Classics*, Rob Groves *Country* and Bart Green *Country and Blues* joining him as show co-host is the talented country music performer Vanessa Delaine.

I would very much like to pay tribute to our two female stalwarts, Eileen Middleton and Nancy Hodgess; their contribution has gone far beyond the call of duty. Tireless efforts planning fundraiser events - they were always on the calendar agenda, selecting a particular venue for functions plus negotiation of costs involved as expenditure depended on a profit outcome.

Eileen would always approach business houses for a donation of goods or vouchers that could be raffled at social events. Eileen's efforts continued on with the following, a *Bowls Day* which ran annually from year to year. This event attracted many local bowlers, and again a large variety of prizes were raffled on the day, a barbecue was held at the conclusion of games played. The social atmosphere among bowlers created a unique feeling of friendship and long-lasting mateship. *Bowls Day* became quite profitable, at times reaching around the \$2,000 or \$1,500 mark. This was indeed a great source of income injecting financial assistance into the everyday running of the station.

Eileen



EILEEN MIDDLETON

Joy



JOY METCALF

Cheryl



CHERYL ROBB

Goodwill & *Fundraising*

Another uplifting story which relates to Eileen, her familiar voice heard on Sunday mornings resonates a tremendous amount of goodwill, asking the public if they would like to donate an item or items in helping the poor and needy. The response was, at times overwhelming, Eileen was so grateful for the incredible support given. Fortunately, this legacy of Eileen's has become part of her program *Honky Tonk Heaven*, as that old saying goes "Charity Begins At Home".

And finally relating to Nancy Hodgess, her twenty seven years association with 2REM FM contributed mainly with promotions, teaming up with Leigh Dickenson, Keith Melbourne and Barry McIvor. Their greatest fundraising achievement at the time had been *Auction Radiothons*, whereby border businesses would donate numerous goods, then they would be finally auctioned off on air going to the first lucky bidder.

Sometimes this hectic event ran for a period of three days taking its toll on promotion organisers. But it was well worth the effort in the end as a surplus of money had been raised, therefore instigating many successful auctions that were held during the 1990s. These became one of the most challenging and most beneficial of events ever conducted by 2REM FM.

Birthday Milestones, Nancy's involvement with the 20th Birthday celebrations took a significant effort on her behalf, supporting her was Promotion Manager Keith Melbourne. The *20th Birthday Bash*, commenced on April 1st with an

open-air show in QE11 Square 11:00 am-6:00 pm. MC's were Ian Bainbridge and Nancy Hodgess. Backing Band Kevin McGrath (drums), Lead guitar, Bass Guitar Meggan Carswell.

Scheduled Concert:

- 11:00 am Levee Breakers
- 11:45 am Horizon
- 12:30 pm Mark Haze
- 1:00 pm TBA
- 1:30 pm Lorraine & Tony
- 2:00 pm Freeze Frame
- 2:30 pm Denise Thorman with Kenny Baker
- 3:00 pm Paul Gibbs
- 3:45 pm Meggan Carswell,
- 4:15 pm Two Tone
- 5:00 pm TBA
- 5:45 pm Finale featuring all artists who performed during the day.

All in all celebrations went well thanks to Nancy and Keith as top line performers were engaged over the two week period thus further celebrations continued on with a Rock 'n' Roll Show held at the SS&A Club featuring The Marshall Wells Band.

Lost 45s!

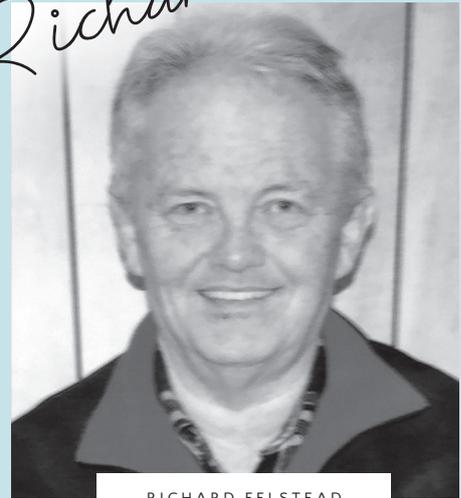
Moving on to another genre of music that resonates on the airwaves, Friday mornings is Richard Felstead's Lost 45's. Better known to everyone as the "Geriatric Dinosaur" his selected hit songs from the '50s and '60s still reminds us all how old we are. His Rock 'n' Roll music hit the airwaves back in the early '90s presenting a '50s and '60s segment with Nancy Hodgess. Richard has always been a big fan of Australian King of Rock Johnny O'Keefe and generally opens his program with one of his hit songs.

During Richard's 37 years association with 2REM FM an acknowledgement was bestowed upon him recently during a presenters meeting concerning his contribution of in-house production presentation, the initial process covers scripted sponsorship voiceovers associated to various business houses contracted. Continuing on, backing theme sounds are included adding a professional touch. A computer formatting technique does this; the timing of recorded sponsorship is most vital as it is covered by certain regulations.

Voiceovers mainly involve station volunteers also including Richard as well, their voices cover a wide range of sponsorships, promotion of station programs going to air. Community Calendar has become a popular feature on 2REM presented by Val White, topics virtually relate to local non-profitable organisations. Finally, much can be said about Richards thirty-seven years involvement with 2REM FM, Community Radio for not only being a much-loved personality as the following paragraph says it all.

Turning back the clock to March 1993, regarding sponsorships (sales) on air, several business houses reported that they were very impressed with 2REM FM as we sounded professional over the airwaves.

Richard



RICHARD FELSTEAD



Andrew



ANDREW GEBERT

Andrew Gebert (Gebzie) has been a long-standing volunteer associated to 2REM FM community radio, commencing in 1982 with a few breaks in between. 2013 he became the new host of Saturday night *Party Time*, this had been due to the sudden death of popular presenter Barry (Bazza) McIvor.

His additional presented programs include *Nostalgic Memories* from the '30s and '40s, Glen Miller, Andrew Sisters and many others. Presenting two overnight shows Tuesday and Wednesday, 12 midnight to 6:00 am.

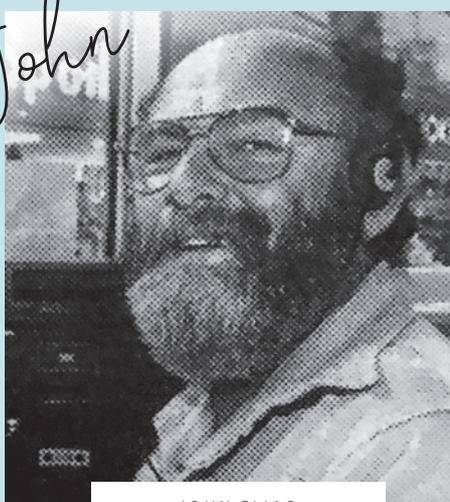
Bazza



BARRY M'IVOR

John Elias has contributed a great part of his life to our community radio station, it all came about back in March 2nd 1994 when he was a member of the board. He went on to become official Chairman serving this position over a significant number of years. During his period he was confronted by various problems that occurred with the running of this adolescent station. Theft of valuable goods for financial gain was quite common, and the removal of explicit information from computers worked along the same lines. Vandalism sometimes would show its ugly head, resulting in the desperate decision to install security cameras which was implemented by the board.

John



JOHN ELIAS

Moving on, John encased himself with urgent matters regarding the stations' operation. Technical upgrades were made including, computer hardware, phone communication systems, satellite and aerial transmissions plus numerous incidentals that were implemented from time to time. Possibly the most significant nightmare that had confronted him was dealing with transmission disruptions, mainly due to electrical storms and dysfunctional instrument parts that interfered with the stations ongoing operation.

Further problems occurred, when co-tenant technical contractors would visit the transmission site, they performed new upgrades within their system. This was a big concern, as time after time frequent breakdowns would add mayhem to the

stations broadcasting woes. The technical term is known as “Dead Air”.

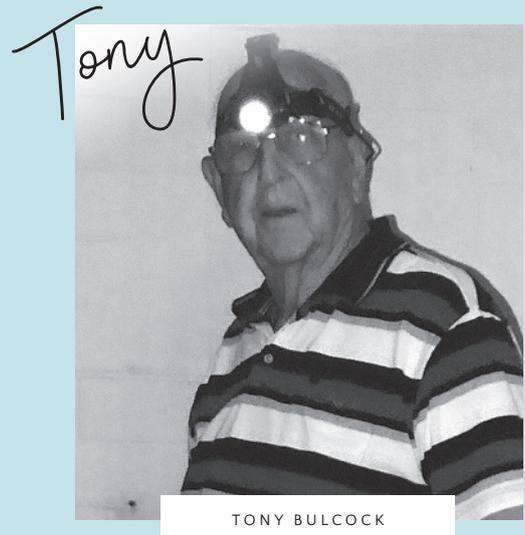
During these unsettling times, John had great support from Tony Bulcock the stations’ technician, as his expertise saved the day on numerous occasions. Thank you, John, for playing such a massive part with community radio Albury/Wodonga, Live & Local 2REM FM 107.3.

A special thank you also goes to Damian Elias for his continued support at the station, dealing with computer malfunctions and whatever other situations arise. Also supporting your father John on his long-running overnight music program *MOTR*, midnight to 6:00 am (Sundays), thank you both for the new and diverse genre of music presented over your weekly programs.

Our longest serving Technician is Tony Bulcock, better known around the station as “Tony Da Tech”. His association with 2REM began in June 2000, joining him was Chris Rodgers a qualified technician as well. First a brief look at Tony’s qualifications, he enlisted in the Australian Army in 1961 his rank came under the Royal Aussie Signals in Electronics, he qualified as Foreman of Signals until 1974. He changed Corps to Royal Aussie Electrical and Mechanical Engineers until 1984.

Qualified and employed as Artificer Electronics, Tony spent 1974 to 1984 instructing in electronics at all levels. He left the Army joining the Dept. of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT), employed in Technical Services in Communications and retired in 1999 as a Technical Officer Level 5.

Tony’s journey firstly began in Pro Electronics (now Exact Computers), they asked him if he would like to pay a visit to 2REM as they had ongoing problems since the last technician departed. He was confronted with a huge mess, and all Tony could say was “My God”, one of many issues found was that the loss of quality of racing broadcasts was not up to a required standard.



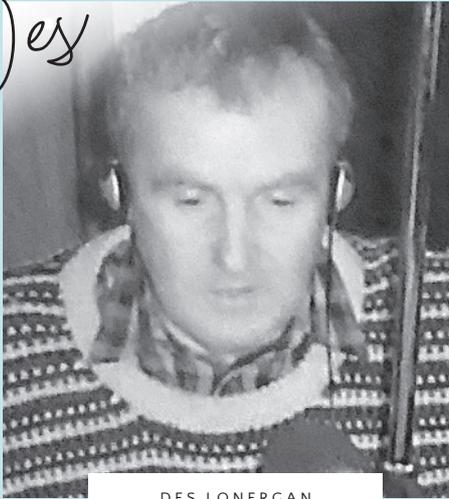
Tony decided with management, that all of the studio’s required complete re-wiring, in addition, new equipment was to be purchased when the budget allowed. As time went on, Studio 1 was relocated from the Sales Office to where it is now. Subsequent wiring was moved to ducted areas, nothing was to remain in the ceiling or under the carpets.

A project was to install and design myself a Telephone Talk Back facility that I think is better than any commercial item. It consists of a commercial HAPI unit and my homegrown Telephone Hybrid. A high-quality commercial unit would cost about \$1,000.

The station bought a Microwave Link, this cost a bit, but it will pay for itself in a few years.

This report presentation from Tony went to great lengths relating to the stations’ technical advancement during his long association spent with us, unfortunately, I had to edit a percentage of the information received. The full report will be on display at the Birthday Celebration in April 2020.

Des



DES LONERGAN

Rob



ROB HUTCHINGS

Breakfast News and the *Footy*

Breakfast News programs have always played a major role with day to day updates, read by the presenters, articles were selected from the *Border Morning Mail*, known now as *The Border Mail*.

There have been numerous presenters of Breakfast News during the past years, and a majority of them showed great professionalism taking on the task at hand. In 2020, we acknowledge two long-standing volunteer presenters who have contributed their time to *Breakfast News* 6:00 am to 8:30 am Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Their names are Rob Hutchings and Des Lonergan.

I would very much like to recap with additional information regarding our two popular breakfast show hosts. Firstly Rob has had a remarkable 22 years serving as a director and presenter. Rob an ex-police officer, who had been stationed at Walwa, eventually left the force taking on a new role as a school teacher at Glenroy Public School in Albury NSW. He became involved with a project known as the *South Kids Schools Program* that was run in conjunction with 2REM FM. Pupils were given the opportunity to express themselves behind a microphone presenting topics of interest which went live to air. The other primary school associated with the program was Melrose located in Wodonga, to this present day both schools continue on with this unique project under the guidance of Rob Hutchings. I almost forgot to mention Rob was an employee with radio station 3UZ in Melbourne!

Des has also had a long association with 2REM FM, being a director and member of the board.

He became a fully committed panel host mainly presenting Australian Rules football information from around the surrounding region. Des has a keen interest with football mainly as he follows the O&M League in general and not forgetting his beloved AFL team North Melbourne (Kangaroos). His involvement with the game continues to this present day as he is an active board member of the O&M League. Here is a little snippet I wish to include, back in the day when Des was a young lad he became associated with the "Albury Umpires League", becoming a central umpire at the time I personally knew him as I was also involved with umpiring.

During the mid-1990's 2REM FM, became engaged with O&M League football league presenting live outside broadcasts of September finals action. Including interleague games that would be played on a chosen date allocated, creating a bye to the O&M football fixture. Home and away matches were broadcasted on Sundays, through OAK FM Wangaratta combining with RPH Print Radio.

Des Lonergan provided commentary on games played, partnering him on the day was Steve Murphy 2REM and Ian Gambold OAK FM. There were times when Tony Melbourne and Paul Buckhorn would join Des in the commentator's box.

There had been a significant response from the general public relating to the presentation of broadcasts, a majority stated the coverage of games had a professional touch. Sponsorships of footy broadcasts were solid, particularly the 1996 O&M Grand Final, there had been a big move to broadcast the leagues Sunday matches.

Rick Courtis plays an active role within the stations' framework, being an ex-school teacher he can act as Minute Secretary when various meetings take place. I wish to digress further and mention Rick's Sunday night program *Light and Bright*, 8:00 pm until midnight, where he plays a mixture of timeless music related to musicals and Celtic themes.

Greg Ingham joined the station in 1981, this included frequent breaks between the years, his interest in radio began whilst listening to Radio Australia, and including Pirate Radio when he was abroad living in England. He listened to 2REM FM when he was living in Wodonga.

Positions held at 2REM FM are as follows: Director Manager, Secretary, Program Committee, REM FM Comedy Committee, Community Liaison and finally a presenter. Possibly his biggest asset was his ability to accumulate information and knowing what rulings applied to what, relating to matters at hand? He has questioned and queried certain decisions that could be detrimental, affecting the stations' operation.

Chris Devlin commenced with 2REM FM 2014, and alternates with Allan Wilson on Sunday *Easy Listening*, 12 noon to 5:00 pm. Chris has at times filled in as a presenter on *Juke Box* Friday Night.

His passion is the love of music and putting it to air, a big fan of The Doobie Brothers, Coldplay, Genesis plus varied music from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

Younger Audience

2REM FM also incorporates music programs for our younger listening audience, at this present time Josh Groch and Mel Naismith go to air on Tuesday evenings 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm with the *Mixed Lollybag*. The show mainly revolves around promoting local artists, the program has become very popular as it is streaming on the net plus interacting with Facebook.

The *Atomic Countdown* airs on 2REM FM on Tuesday evenings, the program was awarded the best locally produced program at the Southern Community Media Association X-Awards in March 2019. The show is hosted by Josh Groch and is produced by Max Bruckmann. The program fosters original music on the border, and we're happy to give them airplay because without a record deal they can't get onto commercial radio.

Memory Lane

Now it wouldn't be radio if serials were not aired on 2REM FM, I would like to take your memory back to 1984 and do you remember these? *The Green Hornet*, *The Shadow*, *Gunsmoke*. In the comedy section, we had George Burns and Gracie Allen, the Marx Brothers, Laurel and Hardy and Life with Dexter. From the movies, we find the radio versions of the *Maltese Falcon*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Sunset Boulevard*.



JOSHUA GROCH & MAX BRUCKMANN

Presently 2REM FM airs much loved favourite *Dad and Dave*, twice daily Tuesday to Friday, it originally first went to air in 1936 and ran for a period of 15 years producing 2,276 episodes.

Racing... and they're off!

Income for the station has always been a major number one priority dealing with the operation of 2REM FM, not only did we only rely on fundraising for income but three other primary resources that came into play. Firstly our association with horse racing broadcasts had been aired six days per week (including Saturday night trotting), sponsorship deals were acquired continuously, mainly through the efforts of our sales reps. March 1995, racing income recorded a great stimulus taking in a total of \$18,976, over two months. Horse racing always had its fair share of criticism from listeners and volunteers of the station, requesting that additional music programs be aired, but this was put to bed when a survey was introduced. The result had shown that 1400 listeners were in favour of daily

racing broadcasts. Special mention surely must go to Gavin Dainton (Sales Manager) for his persistence and for obtaining sponsorships and grant assistance to enable racing to continue on the airwaves over a considerable period.

Tribute to the names of racing presenters on 2REM-FM 107.3: John Duncombe (original first presenter of horse racing), Gary Melbourne, Tony Melbourne, Graeme Melbourne, Ian Deegan, Barry McIvor, John Brett and Ian Page, Gavin Dainton and Paul “Hendy” Kincaid.

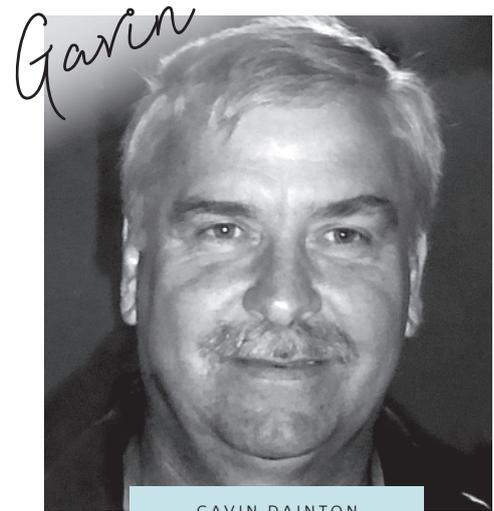
Ethnic *Grants*

2REM-FM also has another distinction; it is the largest ethnic broadcasting station outside a capital city. It has a broad representation of many nations and ethnic groups presenting regular programs during the week, with twelve different groups being on air. This has been achieved by the setting up of a Multi-Cultural Broadcasters group (Noelle Oke first official chairman).

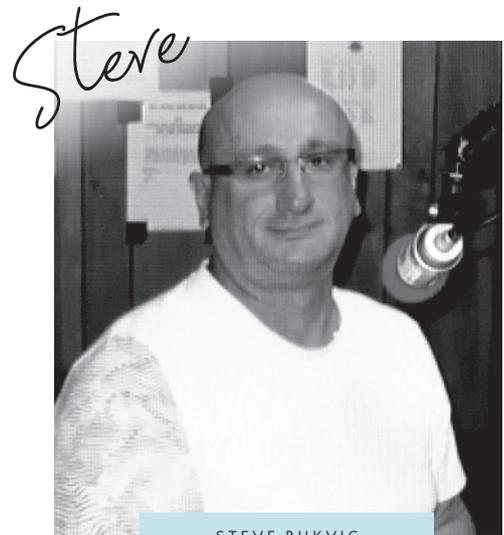
Grants related to individual ethnic groups became available to assist with the income of the stations' operation, 2REM FM has also played a vital role with its actual broadcasting programs to various ethnic communities throughout the border region.

Ethnic programs since the stations inception (1980): Benelux, Yugoslav, German, Italian, Serbian, Ukraine, Croatian, Spanish Japanese, Vietnamese, Polish, Dutch, Irish, Indian, Philipino, French, Laotian, Bhutanese and South American.

Presently only four ethnic programs are aired on 2REM FM; they are German with Elko and Ingrid Neviandt, Spanish with Jean Maree Gutiez-Christesen, Croatian, Ukranian with Luba Slywka and Free Serbian with Steve Bukvic.



GAVIN DAINTON



STEVE BUKVIC

Steve Bukvic has been presenting The Serbian Show for nearly twenty years, he has in this time served as an ethnic Co-ordinator.

Finances, Sport & Sponsorship

Sponsorships and promotions have also played a major role with the running of 2REM; monthly budgets were calculated to ensure a positive insight ahead. Sales reps would utilise their talents to convince business houses to sign a contract, if they were totally happy with the price and time frame to air their sponsorship. Reps were paid a commission of 30% for obtaining sponsorships but this figure has varied from time to time. Unfortunately in November 1993, a slight problem arose when clients refused to pay their accounts on time, and at one stage we found that we were owed in the vicinity of \$16,000 which increased to \$18,827 over a short period. A drastic decision was made to recoup arrears owing. The board of 2REM FM employed a debt collector, but this action proved fruitless, and monies were never redeemed. This situation has occurred on numerous occasions as clients continually abuse our stations' goodwill and business integrity.

Sales Reps, past and present: Ollie Klepiak, Clarrie Klepiak, Roley Eaton, Judith Barker, Eileen Middleton, Barry McIvor, John Ivers, Lance Collins, Steve Armstrong, Gavin Dainton, Rohan Glenn, Ron Montgomery, Harry Keevers Russell Hume and new comer Bart Green.

During the stations inception, financial income has always been a contributor to both good and not so good times. Early 2003 recorded a cash flow problem, this emerged due to income deficiencies, a Chairman's Appeal had been launched by Jim Williamson (board member) target \$30,000 to stop the station from going under. Eighty letters

were posted out to businesses throughout Albury/Wodonga, seeking their support for funding during this challenging time - there were only eleven replies. Furthermore to add salt to the wound we were grappling with an outstanding debt of \$15,000, due to the purchase of a new transmitter. Fortunately, we obtained a holding deposit of \$2,500 to safeguard our investment. There has been a great deal of speculation over time concerning an anonymous loan of \$10,000, being for the new transmitter. It had been gratefully received by the station directors, injecting a morale boost to the stations financial status.

The Federal Communications Minister Richard Alston, was alerted to the stations' situation by the member for Farrer Susan Ley. In his reply, Mr Alston stated that the government had no funds to assist and suggested to investigate the usual websites or contacting the CBAA.

Lastly, as I stated the station has had its ups and downs associated with its financial woes. Thankfully 2REM had the pleasure of engaging Harry Keevers to the position of Treasurer and Finance Manager.

His gifted knowledge concerning budget, planning and general income, turned our bleak forecast from being in the red back into the black. Harry will be remembered for playing a vital role in guiding the station into a secure and sustainable future.



Sports programs were broadcasted mainly on Saturday mornings, 8:00 am to 10:00 am to O&M League (Australian Rules), Albury Thunder Rugby League 10:00 am to 10:30 am hosted by Stephen Murphy. Steve also presented a Friday night junior sports program, his aim to promote a vast number of sporting groups on the border.

Final scores from the O&M Tallangatta and Ovens & King Leagues were presented by Robert Travaskis and Barry “Bazza” McIvor, on *Saturday Night Party Time*.

Live Local Sport programs were broadcasted on 2REM, O&M (Australian Rules) Rugby, Rugby Union.

The Fishing Show has been the longest-running program on 2REM commencing on the 1st October 1994, timeslot was at 6:00 pm.

It continues to broadcast this very day on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, the show is hosted by Jamie Gay a long time member of the show and not forgetting the late Laurie Moretti. However, a problem did arise around early July 2002, participants of the program were disgruntled that a new timeslot would be introduced on Friday evenings. They all voted that they would cease broadcasting the program at the end of July. Their argument put forward to management was that fishermen can't listen after Thursday night, because other fishing programs are broadcasted on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons. The outcome resulted in favour of their proposal, so *The Fishing Show* carried on to its normal scheduled timeslot.

New kid on the block!

I started with 2REM 107.3FM on the 15th November 2018, and I am involved in Production, Sales and now on the board of directors at 2REM 107.3FM

My story goes back to 2014, I was out of work and looking to do some volunteer work with some organisations, and I lived in a township called Geeveston, about an hour south of Hobart, Tasmania, so it was very isolated in terms of finding things to do. I was on my way to a local help centre when I passed Huon and Kingston FM, another community radio station and the southern most station in the nation (Commercial or Community), I thought I would go in and ask if I could help with anything, not necessarily going on air, and I met a nice lady at the counter who was in charge of program director, it was came as a shock to me that she said how would you like to go on air? Well I was stunned, I thought wow! Really? I said yes I would love to have a opportunity to do so. Within 2 weeks I was on Sunday afternoon (2-5pm) and it was just called Sunday sessions, I did a mix each week, for example, a *Sunday BBQ*, all Aussie artists that we have grown up with, sometimes mixed up with old and new stuff. It was very satisfying and it was very catchy for me. I was a natural at speaking and very satisfied that I could give something back in the form of music which I have always loved, and all sorts as well.

At Huon FM, other than Sunday afternoons, 2-5pm, I also did a *Grapevine* program from 9am-1pm, covering local events and health services available to the community etc and some selections of music in between. Also I did Saturday night 6pm *Midnight called Party Hits*



BART GREEN

with Bart. I have done various fill ins with other programs should the need arise. I started off with the night shifts for Thursday and Friday nights. Midnight to 6am, since then, I have started Monday Breakfast (6-8:30am), Monday afternoon Country and Blues Show (3:30-5:30pm) *Night Vibes* (8:30pm-Midnight), the *Drive time Thursday's* (5-7pm Winter, 5:30-7pm Summer), and alternative with Stephen Crookson for Saturday Breakfast (6-8:30am). My involvement is heavy and very rewarding for me to be able to give something back as I have done in the past. It is very satisfying, I have also had the privilege of hosting the Jukebox Friday night which covers those lost classics from the 50s onwards, new music over Saturday night for John Elias, that he receives each week, *Easy Listening* on Sunday's from Midday-5pm, *Cool Country*, 5-7pm Sunday afternoon, Des Lonergan's Friday breakfast show, 6-8:30am, Greg Inghams Drive time 5-8:30pm Winter, 5:30-8:30pm Summer.

I have always loved playing Classic Rock, Pop, Grunge, Rock n' Roll, but lately I have been delving into Bluegrass, Country and Blues, to name a few, and some other forms of music that always will work into programs that you do, it's just a matter of balance and timing.



Conclusion

To conclude I hope you enjoy my publication on the brief History of 2REM FM 107.3 Community Radio on the border. A great deal of time has been taken to research information from board meeting minute books, dating back from 1990 to 2012, unfortunately there had been a surplus of information that I could not add. I was quite disappointed that I could not find history memorabilia associated with the stations 1980 decade. I will endeavour to seek information from the Albury Museum copying snippets from the Border Mail (via Micro Film).

To finish, I would very much like to share two humorous stories associated with this station. Firstly, this one relates to our first chairman Norelle Oke, going back to the early 80's Norelle was given the task to perform a voiceover sponsorship promoting the Albury/Wodonga Growth Area under the supervision of Don Tynan and production work was arranged by Phil Shields. But things went a bit pear-shaped as Don stated that Norelle's voice seemed a little flat and uninteresting, coming up with an idea, Don found an orange nearby and asked Norelle to take it and put it between her knees. This was a very unusual request indeed, so following instructions the scene was set and then suddenly out of the blue there came a light sound of laughter from Norelle. This had altered the entire situation so the next attempt at making this particular voiceover sponsorship had passed the test with flying colours and a cheerful sound was achieved that resonated from beginning to end of her narration.

Secondly, a special board meeting was held in March 1991, report tabled that presenter Mr. Herman Blom was asked to cease singing on air during his program. His reason for singing was that he had written permission to sing the songs on air by the record people. Mr Blom had been suspended from broadcasting, and use of equipment for a period of not less than eight weeks for his refusal to stop singing on air.

Microfilm, a wonderful piece of technology! I want to extend my gratitude to the Albury Museum staff who have assisted me with my maiden project.

Many thank yous go out to the following people who assisted me with history research it has been greatly appreciated.

Richard Felstead 2REM FM, Nancy Hodgess former Presenter and Volunteer of 2REM FM, Helen Livsey Albury Historical Society and Paul Tynan.

History Matters!



Allan



SLIM DUSTY AND KEITH MELBOURNE 1983

