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CLIPPINGS

From the manager's desk

This article is written after just a few days in office, so while I don't have a lot to say, I can at least bring you up to date on some on-going activity at 7RPH.

Mel and I are in the process of applying for our annual RPH Content and Support funding. While this is an arduous and annoying process, it is worth somewhere in the vicinity of \$50,000 to the station, so well worth the effort involved in getting it done.

In Devonport, we're awaiting completion of antenna mounts and power re-routing. We are assured that this is underway and should be completed shortly, and this will allow us to extend our coverage into the north-west.

You might have noticed while listening to the station that we have lost our Breakfast Programme from 08:00 to 08:30. That means we now have

two and a half hours less RPH programming each week. It would be great if we could reinstitute the breakfast programming at a later date with a slightly different format, or pick up that time somewhere else.

One of the things I would really like to see in the next twelve months is an overall increase in our original RPH content. That means content that is produced and delivered locally. So, let's all put our thinking caps on and come up with some brilliant programming ideas!

Lastly, I would like to thank Philip for leaving me such a well-run and efficient station. Also thank you to those of you who have made the transition so smooth and easy — it is much appreciated.

See you around the station.

Vaughn
Station Manager

Farewell Philip French



Wheeling and dealing at the RPH Garage Sale 2012



REMEMBER!

Readings of The Examiner and The Mercury on weekday mornings are repeated again in the evenings. So, if you're presenting or reading one of these programmes, please:

- Introduce yourself and the readers AFTER the programme theme, not before.
- Refrain from wishing listeners 'Good morning'.
- Don't give time-calls.

Thank you! This makes the job of editing before replay a lot easier.

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Presidential Ponderings



A number of significant events have taken place at 7RPH during the month of June.

The station celebrated its 30th anniversary, and the occasion was marked by the very kind invitation of His Excellency the Governor to an evening reception at Government House. There's a report on this special event on page five.

Then there was the retirement of our Station Manager of some ten years, Philip French. Philip did great things for the station from the time of his appointment, right up to the day he retired and you can read more about his career with 7RPH on page five. I had the pleasure of recording an interview with Philip for broadcast on 7RPH and I hope you might have had the opportunity to hear it. If you missed it, we are taking steps to get it on-line at the 7RPH website for 'catch-up' purposes. On his last day in office, Philip very kindly opened the bar in Studio 5 (aka the Civic Club, next door) for volunteers and members, and we all enjoyed a very pleasant farewell drink together.

In conjunction with Philip's retirement, our new Station Manager, Vaughn Bennison, has taken hold of the reins, and I join with all volunteers and members in extending him a very warm welcome to Tasmania. We were fortunate that Vaughn was able to join two weeks before Philip's retirement for a thorough hand-over, in

order to make the transition from outgoing to incoming Manager as smooth as possible. As I write, I am pleased to have heard the news that Vaughn has been successful in finding a place to live in Hobart and will soon be joined by his family, when they arrive from Queensland.

Both Philip and Vaughn made an appearance on Chris Wisbey's Sunday morning programme on ABC local radio on the weekend of the transition, cleverly organised by intrepid committee-person Katie Holness.

A less happy event in June was the final decision to wind up the 7RPH Breakfast Programme after almost three years on air. The committee and presenters concluded that the programme was unsustainable, due to a lack of volunteers willing to get involved, even to fill in temporarily when one of the incumbent presenters was absent.

Finally, I am pleased by the news that we have had a fairly good year financially, with income from sponsorships, donations and our regular funding sources, as well as some additional one-off grants.

At this time, too, Technology Master Jim Parish is putting the finishing touches to the new translator at Devonport, so it should make its debut on 96.1MHz very soon, extending our coverage westerly along Tasmania's northern coast.

I'd like to wish all my fellow members and volunteers a happy winter season and many pleasant broadcasts.

Ron Andersen.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Recent events at the station have once again highlighted a shortage of volunteers in key roles. Sicknesses, departures and holidays—a regular winter issue—have again stretched us to the limit.

We are intending to increase our recruiting in an effort to alleviate this problem and are giving our existing volunteers first notice of this. So, if you have untapped skills (plus willingness and interest) or if you have friends who do, then we'd like to hear from you.

Opportunities exist for potential presenters, producers, technical assistants, newspaper preparers/researchers and of course: readers for live and recorded programmes.

All training will be provided—**free** and at your own pace.

If you're interested in extending your skills or commitment, or know someone who might like to become a volunteer, please talk to Margaret, Vaughn or me. We would appreciate it!

By the way, if you're already a presenter/producer, you may wish to refresh or enhance your skills. Just let me know!

*Melvin Lee
Assistant Manager and Trainer*



Hello, from Vaughn Bennison



Firstly, I would like to thank all of those volunteers and members who have given me such a warm and effusive welcome to Hobart!

It is with great excitement, and perhaps a little trepidation, that I take up the position of Manager at RPH Print Radio Tasmania. Philip has left us a wonderful legacy, and this station runs more smoothly and efficiently than any station at which I have worked. I would like to thank Philip, Mel and the members of the management committee for making the transfer as easy as possible.

For those of you whom I have not yet met, greetings, and I look forward to talking with you and working with you in the future.

I was born in New Zealand, and moved to Melbourne when I was 10. I have long had an interest in radio, since an aunt took me to a local commercial station when I was four. And being blind has meant that the spoken word has always been of great interest.

I've always played with tape-recorders and other audio equipment, and used to record 'home-grown' radio dramas and other fun things from about the age of eight. I am also an avid record collector, and collect all kinds of records and audio equipment. For those of you who care, one of my most prized possessions is a 1963 Nagra iii reel-to-reel tape recorder, in near perfect condition.

As part of my studies in Northern NSW I did Audio Engineering and some radio subjects, which further developed my skills as a producer and presenter.

I started RPH programming in Lismore in 1998, and have never looked back since. I have served on the committee of Queensland Radio for the Print Handicapped Ltd as well as producing and presenting since 1998.

I got married in 1997, and we have two children—Julian, aged nearly 9, and Lucy, aged four-and-a-half. They are coming down to Hobart from Queensland at the end of July. We have just found a house to live in and are all looking forward to partaking in all that Hobart has to offer.

Vaughn Bennison
Station Manager

KEEP THESE DATES FREE!

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 3 October	9:00 – 12:00	Outside broadcast in Devonport
Friday 5 October	2:30 – 4:30	Seniors Week open house at RPH
Sunday 2 December	5:00 – 7:00	Christmas Party

Rostering and volunteer news

We continue to be blessed with wonderful volunteers.

As you know, the latest rosters for weekend duty have been distributed as well as rosters for the programmes *From Far and Wide* and *Sunday Feature*. Some of you have told me that certain days don't suit you and I'm working at finding casual replacements to work around those days. The rosters are done every six months, so if you are able to let me know ahead of their publication time, we can incorporate these occasional alterations.

The next lot of rosters are due to be issued early in December. Meanwhile, if anyone feels left out or is able to offer the station more of their time, just let me know—a spot will quickly be found for you!

We are sorry to lose Helen Martin as a presenter for live newspaper readings and wish her well as she relocates overseas.



We welcome some new presenters - Paul Morris has become the Monday morning presenter for *The Mercury*, and has also begun weekend presenting; and Marilyn Chenault will soon be heard in the early Wednesday afternoon shift as she fills in while Gleewyn Sprod takes a holiday.



Unfortunately, manning levels have meant that the *Breakfast Programme* could not continue in its current form. We continue to read *The Australian* in the morning and new voices can be heard in that spot, filling vacancies left by Mary Pryce, who has gone to live in Cyprus for the rest of the year. We welcome Marilyn Chenault, Rasa Dunlop and Elizabeth Lord. We thank Philip Tyson for his great work as presenter for the *Breakfast Programme* and for *The Australian* on Tuesday mornings and welcome Ken Doughty, who will move from one side of the desk to the other to work the panel as well as read.

Speaking of sterling efforts, did you know that Ron Andersen kept up weekly contributions to his programme *Travelling* by recording segments from wherever he happened to be overseas and sending them to us? The rumour is that no carrier pigeons were lost in the attempt! A big 'thank you' to everyone who ensured that the programmes for which they are responsible keep going to air during an extended absence by recording in advance—Belinda and Jon come to mind.

We continue to receive applications from people wishing to become readers on air. Unfortunately, new people are not so keen to get up early in the morning and assist with preparation—a task that requires considerable skill. If that job is not done well, the readers on air soon notice. So we are extremely grateful to Paul Morris and Giles Hugo, both of whom do more than one day of preparation each week.

Our new manager, Vaughn, will commence on-air shifts in July as presenter for live newspaper sessions. Readers will adopt aural cues rather than raising a hand when they reach the end of a piece. This will mean announcing the headline and the author both at the beginning and end of each article. In fact, Vaughn has said that he favours this procedure for all live reading. His view is that the listener can be confused when short articles are read or if two readers have similar voices. Repeating the headline makes it clear that one article is ending and another is starting.

Margaret Gibbs
Volunteers Co-ordinator



END OF AN ERA

The title of this article is a bit of a cliché, I know, but the Philip French era of management at 7RPH has been a highly significant one and anything but a cliché.

On his appointment as Station Manager, Philip brought to the job a wealth of media experience, both on-air and behind the panel. I hope everyone has had a chance to see the *This is Your Life* style, biographical article in a previous newsletter. Philip came to 7RPH at the beginning of its digital age. I was very impressed when I came to the station in 2004 to see how it had embraced digital technology, both with use of minidisks and the carriage of our programming by broadband to the translator in Launceston. All of this came into being on Philip's watch. Philip also oversaw and encouraged the transition to digital production and automation using computers, in the second half of his time with us. Not only has station technology been enhanced under Philip's guidance, but the station's funding position has been placed and maintained in a healthy state. Philip's diligence and keen eye for grants on offer has kept the cash-flow positive and at the time of his retirement we are well placed financially. Philip's ability to think and plan ahead means that as ageing studio equipment

reaches the end of its life, we have the means to replace it when necessary. Our contribution to the commissioning of the Devonport translator outside the funding grants available has been minimised by careful strategies put into place by Philip. All who volunteer at the station will remember Philip's light-hearted repartee and cheery 'So glad you're here' welcome on arrival, his friendly advice about on-air procedure and willingness to help with day-to-day problems as they arose. So, as he moves on to his new life as a retired person, I know many of us will welcome him to the fold, and members and volunteers who are yet to achieve retirement will watch his progress with a certain envy, yet wish him the very best that his new 'career' has to offer. So, as they say in radio, Philip, 'Thanks for your time!'



Ron Andersen

A GRAND RECEPTION

Hi, Everyone...
Debbie
Legrande here,
reporting on the
reception at
Government
House on
Wednesday, 27 June.



It was a wonderful turnout, despite the chilly evening. The Governor, Mr Peter Underwood and Mrs Underwood were gracious hosts. The Governor was quite the comedian - after entering the room to welcome us

all, he turned around a few times to introduce Mrs Underwood, saying, 'Now where is she?' Of course she was behind him, a little out of his line of sight. A nice bit of levity to begin the evening, I thought.

The Governor spoke of our thirtieth anniversary and the work that 7RPH does. He congratulated the volunteers for their tireless efforts in bringing the printed word to life for the station's many listeners. He introduced a well-known theatrical personality, Robert Jarman, who proceeded to do some readings for the gathering. A very nice touch!

Mr and Mrs Underwood mingled with the guests, chatting and finding out more about the

work we do. The Governor's aides circulated and chatted, too, and shared their knowledge of our elegant surroundings in Government House. All the while we were served with a very generous supply of drinks and nibbles. It was all most enjoyable — a great evening and a memorable reward for the staff and volunteers at 7RPH.

Cheers all!

From your roving reporter at
Government House,

Debbie Legrande



Volunteering at the Theatre Royal



They say volunteering can be addictive.

RPH committee member and presenter Phil Tyson is working as a volunteer in several organisations, one of which is Friends of the Theatre Royal. He says each of the

organisations draws on a different set of skills, although there are some common requirements.

As a 'friend' of Australia's oldest continuously-working theatre, Phil regularly guides visitors on tours of the building and assists with the refurbishment of backstage and sub-stage areas. His current focus is on a project which will identify the range and significance of historical material related to the Theatre Royal.



That material is held at the Tasmanian Museum, in the State Archives, at the theatre and in private collections.

'The project is about developing a framework for the management and preservation of the collection', said Phil. 'Ultimately, we would like to have a database of historical items associated

with the theatre and make those items more accessible. Our first steps are listing the items and assessing their significance. We are looking at old programmes, posters, paintings and drawings, furniture, audio and video recordings, photographs, costumes, remnants from the fire of 1984 and even at the brass plaques which were once fitted to seats in the auditorium.'

Examining the link between actor Sir Laurence Olivier and the Theatre Royal has been an intriguing part of Phil's work in the history project. With the help of other 'friends' he has unearthed newspaper articles, telegrams, photographs and letters from, or about, Olivier. They have tracked down an interview with Sir Laurence in a dressing room at the theatre in 1948.

'During a week-long visit to the state, Olivier had implored Tasmanians to save the theatre whose future was under threat at that time,' Phil explained.

In the recorded interview Olivier said, 'The theatre has been more charming to play in than I have known almost any other theatre in my career... I have just said to the audience that we pray most fervently—all we of the Old Vic Theatre Company—that we should have the great joy of coming back to Tasmania before we die.'

Many of the skills that are valued at RPH—like accurate and clear communication—are needed in the history project.

'I'm loving it', Phil says.

