



PRINT · RADIO · TASMANIA · INC
turning print into sound

CLIPPINGS

From Maureen Rudge

President Print Radio Tasmania



Hello to everyone

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2009. This time round you'll find articles from our President, Maureen, news from Volunteers Coordinator, Margaret Gibbs, along with profiles of three volunteers. Syliva Watkins recounts the tale of a slip of the tongue, while Glewyn Sprod reports on a travel adventure. In a stop-press, Philip French reports RPH will soon be able to reach more listeners.



—Helen Martin.

Greetings to all the volunteers, listeners and friends of Print Radio Tasmania. How time flies! It is hard to realise that we are nearly halfway through 2009. We are indeed fortunate to have the RPH facilities to broadcast the printed word through the north and south of the state, and hopefully in the near future this will extend to areas on the north-west coast.

The difficulty that people with a print disability face in everyday life was brought home to me only recently while I was further afield. I was in Northern Italy on the day of the horrendous earthquakes in L'Aquila. Despite all the newspapers being filled with

details of the quake and associated tragedy my limited knowledge of the Italian language was a handicap in being unable to access the printed word. It was quite a frustrating experience and made me appreciate even more the service that Print Radio provides to its community of interest.

At the end of May I will be attending a meeting in Adelaide of RPH Australia with Philip French and Miles Flanagan. The meeting of representatives from the seven Australian RPH stations is an opportunity for sharing information relating to resources, finances, training, programming and for planning future directions.

There are already some new things in the pipe-line at 7RPH which we expect to come to fruition in the next few months, so keep tuned.

Congratulations to Margaret Gibbs who was awarded an Order of Australia medal in the Australia Day Honours. Margaret's award was for her service to Bridge, but the citation also included her services to Print Radio Tasmania and was a well-deserved honour.

Thank you to all dedicated volunteers at 7RPH as every contribution, no matter how small, is invaluable in providing a much needed service to our community of interest.

Maureen Rudge, President.

**From Margaret Gibbs —
Volunteer Co-ordinator**



Life has been busy in the office in recent weeks with Mel and Philip taking it in turns to have their well-deserved holidays. I was caught doing a crossword the other day, but this is not a common occurrence, either being caught or having time!

In particular, I would like to thank those volunteers who came in to produce programmes, especially on Fridays. Friday is busy enough at the best of times, and one manager cannot be in two studios at once.

We have another new reader in the studio and we welcome Myf Edwards. We expect Myf to be extremely useful shortly as a producer as well.

Many thanks to Phil Beck and Lyn Muir who agreed to learn to prepare the newspapers at 8 am on Fridays recently ready for the on-air readers to begin at 9 am. It means working to a dead-line, but is obviously essential for the smooth running of the news broadcasts.

Other volunteers who regularly do this essential task are Graham Clements, Mary Davis, Miles Flanagan, Keith Graver, Paul Morris, Annie Quarmby, Helen Martin, Gill Robinson, Basil Smith and Wendy Worsley. The weekend presenters also have the responsibility of preparing both newspapers. We

have additional people we call on at times: Jan Stanwix, Leone Hendry, and sometimes a weekend reader obliges.

Watch the notice-board for an innovation requested at the Strategic Planning day. We are planning a series of Volunteer nights at which the aim will be to hone the skills of readers and presenters. For readers the focus will be on:

- Breathing techniques
- The live microphone
- Reading for meaning

For presenters there will be attention given to:

- Equipment review
- Studio management
- Trouble-shooting

Rosters: We are currently updating our rosters for July-December 2009. If you have any requests, please let me know, or talk to Philip or Mel. It would be really useful if you could write down any changes to your personal schedule that you wish to be incorporated. We need a few more people to be on the 'From Far and Wide' roster, because we have at least three people on an extended holiday in the next six months. If you can be on an emergency roster that would also be very welcome. Maybe you could keep a watch out for likely articles for when the call comes. I find that the Christmas period is a difficult time. The programme 'From Far and Wide' is produced **every** week, and of course the newspapers are read live on air every day of the year.

The Examiner is not printed on Christmas Day or Good Friday, but *The Mercury* is.

Margaret Gibbs

Elizabeth Cloudsdale



When I retired from work my life still revolved around church activities, but I looked to volunteering to experience more of life in the community. My interests lay in Meals on Wheels, and working as a library courier. My involvement centred around things I could do to meet people in their home, some of them very lonely. Also, choir singing was an enjoyable "meet" each week, and giving concerts in aged peoples' homes was great in bringing enjoyment to so many more. Here I had the pleasure of meeting and talking often with Myfanwy Roberts, then in the Freemason's Home, Lindisfarne. Her photo in the office keeps a close eye on Philip as he sits at his desk.

Gardening was something that had always been in my life. In the 1930's depression it was a must for families to be able to feed themselves, and my father was a great example. I still have things growing that were from his garden originally.

After graduating from 'Hear-a-Book' recording my life began again with 7RPH. I was even encouraged by Janet Salmon from the studio to take up rowing in the 'Life Be In It' programme. I did enjoy that.

I'm now very sedentary, however my commitment to RPH Print Radio has become more important. But who knows? I might apply for a seat in a Dragon Boat some day!

Elizabeth.



A slip of the tongue

When reading the Mercury on air I have often found that I will confidently tackle a new and unfamiliar name and then immediately mess up a perfectly ordinary one.

For instance, when “Mary” stories first appeared I would happily read “Danish newspaper *Billed Bladet*, reported that C(L)own Princess Mary replied...”

Does anyone else have such a slip-of-the-tongue to share? I wonder.

And is laughing on air worse than coughing do you think?



What about this? Last Friday I had the following item on the News in Brief segment which caught me out. It was under the heading, “Record of all records”.

Myf Edwards

Our latest volunteer

Hello everyone, my name is Myf Edwards and I recently joined RPH as a casual reader and trainee in production.

I have spent the last 3 years working as a private music teacher in Wagga NSW where I also did volunteer work with community radio presenting a music programme dedicated to new artists.

I have done all kinds of work over my adult life from working in local government to tree-planting in the spectacular Florentine Valley, and have also travelled widely across the mainland, New Zealand, Great Britain and Zimbabwe. Tasmania is truly the pick of places in which to live.

Currently I am also involved with the co-pilot’s scheme at Rose Bay High School. My motorcycle keeps me sane and long walks keep me fit.

RPH has a good feel as an organisation, and I am glad to be part of it.

Myf

FUND-RAISING

Your support of the “chocky” treats in the Volunteers’ room assists the station’s finances. it’s all in a good cause!



A New York businessman has become the first person to simultaneously hold 100 Guinness World Records.

Ashrita Forman, 54, made his first entry into the Guinness Book of World Records 30 years ago by doing 27,000 star jumps within five hours.

The health-food store-manager earned his 100th title this week by arranging a group-reading of a Sri Chimnoy poem in 110 languages, including Zulu and Rhaeto-Romanic...”

I was fine so far, but the last sentence I had to read twice because I laughed while reading it. Here it is:

Furman’s other records include eating 38 M&Ms with chopsticks in one minute.

I do hope they edited it out for the repeat.

Sylvia Watkins

I have grave doubts about this Sylvia.—Ed.

Kat Layne

My volunteer story began in 2005 when at 26 I suffered a life-threatening stroke, one of the consequences of this being my inability to read for a period. During this time I was lucky enough to have my eldest daughter Angelle, then 7, read me the new Harry Potter, (thank goodness she was/ is a good reader!). This experience caused me to have a huge appreciation of those who assist people with vision difficulties.

So when I first discovered RPH in 2006 and was able to read again myself I knew I had to be a part of it to help others, like my daughter had helped me. I began volunteering with RPH as morning ‘Mercury’ reader and then trained as a producer/presenter. I have now been a member of the RPH Board of Management since mid 2007.

In other news, I work as a legal assistant to a Family Law practitioner and I am in my final year of a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degree.

I plan to continue studying next year to begin either an Honours or Masters degree in Russian history, for which I have a passion. I also volunteer in the position of Vice-President of the Student Legal service at the University and as secretary of the Claremont Girl Guides Association where my girls Angelle, almost 11 and Ashleigh, almost 9, are guides. If anyone wants to buy guide biscuits please let me know!

In my somewhat limited spare time I love to read, especially books by John Grisham and Robert Ludlum and now Stephenie Meyer’s ‘Twilight’saga has become my absolute favourite to re-read.

I hope you all continue to enjoy your own volunteer experiences at RPH as much as I do!

Katia

MILESTONE MEANS MORE LISTENERS FOR RPH PRINT RADIO TASMANIA

During May, our President Maureen Rudge, Board member Miles Flanagan and I attended a three day planning meeting of RPH Australia in Adelaide. Over coming months we will gradually have more details on the deliberations and decisions.

The most exciting news I believe, is that soon we may have blanket copyright exemption for all RPH radio services to stream our entire programming live on our websites. What this means, for those of you not using computer technology, is that in our station's case, when a person goes to our website, they will not only see our text information, but they will be able to listen to our programmes just like listening on a radio.

Now you might be asking, why don't they just put their radio on. Well, our radio transmission reaches only a small proportion of Tasmanian listeners. By having our programmes live on the internet, anyone anywhere in the state, in fact in the world, if they are connected to the world wide web, will be able to hear us. I believe that when we obtain this permission and set up our own on site web service, we will be offering all Tasmanians the opportunity to access our special radio reading service.



A further development, but down the track, will be limited podcasting access to some of our programmes. To be permitted to move to that next step, will take more detailed negotiation on copyright.

So what fantastic news for more vision impaired listeners to have access to RPH Print Radio Tasmania. Keep watching our notice boards for developments...

Philip French, Manager.

A VALUED LISTENER

In March, Margaret Wallace was guest of honour at TMAG when her fellow artists and friends met to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Sixteen artists came with easels, brushes and pencils to start on a portrait of Margaret who was wearing her favourite colour, peacock blue.

Several months earlier several of Margaret's own works (portraits in charcoal and landscapes in joyous colours) had graced the walls of the Commissariat building for the BIG DRAW exhibition.

Margaret has advanced macular degeneration which makes painting difficult and reading impossible.

She values RPH for the information it provides. Apart from the classifieds and letters to the editor, Margaret enjoys articles and poetry.

"I listen regularly, it helps me keep up with things", says Margaret.

Maggie McKerracher



ARTICLES FOR FUTURE EDITIONS

By now we hope you are getting the idea behind our newsletter and are enjoying its content. Put your thinking cap on ready for our next edition in three months time. We'd love to hear from you.



ILLNESS AND YOUR VOLUNTEERING

With the winter ills and chills season upon us, please remember if you are ill, stay home and get well. We prefer volunteers stay away so we do not spread these bugs more than necessary. Manager.

A travel adventure

“This should be an interesting adventure for you”, said the travel agent. And indeed it was! The year was 1994.

After a sixteen-hour flight from Sydney and a one-and-a-half-hour clearance from officialdom, I was welcomed to Zimbabwe by a smiling Henry who drove me to the Cresta Hotel, our meeting place for the tour. As it was near midnight I just collapsed into bed. After an early morning swim the next day, I caught a local bus into Harare, a seven mile journey. I visited the museum, the many art galleries and admired the old colonial buildings, somewhat neglected. The City Park, in contrast to the actual city, was very well kept, with brilliant flowers, shrubs, trees, most imaginative sculptures, shade-houses and very friendly people.

My real adventures began at seven the next morning when I joined a group of six people, our brash Australian guide Bruce and the charming Zimbabwean cook Smurch. After picking up our food supplies (which took five hours), we drove north-west to Lake Kariba, passing many family groups with all their possessions living on the roadside. Bruce explained that there was no work for them; the roadside was their home. As we neared the lake, the land became more productive because of a vast irrigation system. We camped on the shore of the lake, and had a somewhat uneasy night with sagging tents and strange animal noises.

Next morning we crossed into Zambia and met our river

guide, Leonard. After checking our gear he gave us very clear, concise and definite instructions as to our behaviour whilst canoeing; the most important rule being - “when the white flag is hoisted, everybody ‘freeze’, hippopotami get angry if disturbed”. Then off we paddled and what a wonderland of wildlife we saw: hippopotami, waterbucks, crocodiles, impala, kudi, elephants, warthogs, bee-catchers, egyptian geese, storks, herons, egrets. Our four days were filled with becoming expert canoeists (or so we bragged) and



there were endless parades of fascinating wildlife to identify: our nights were spent camping on the river-bank, sharing our day's adventures with each other and particularly with the river-people. Eating delicious meals and the getting into our tents



before the monkeys was an hilarious venture!

My diary tells me that we travelled eighty-three kilometres

along the Zambesi River. What a fascinating four days!

Our next venture took us back into Zimbabwe on a very rickety barge, then a long dusty drive to our next campsite. En route we stopped to help a young mother bathe her six children, by taking turns at the water-pump. They had walked a kilometre to enjoy a shower!

We were now in Mana Pools National Park, a place of beautiful trees, gently undulating hills, all a rich brown colour. We camped for the next three nights at a designated campsite. We were up, had breakfast and on our way by 6 am each morning to watch the animals; those I have mentioned, and also zebras, giraffes, gazelles, buffaloes, monkeys, elands and the ever-present vultures. The interplay between the animals was fascinating; sometimes gruesome. During the day we were back in camp, but returned at dusk to watch the animals. One late afternoon a family of elephants walked through our campsite, stopping to watch US! We spent another three nights at a different location in Mana Pools Park, a different terrain and, surprisingly, to watch some different animal and bird behaviours.

Back in Harare we all agreed that the last ten days had indeed been a great adventure.

Gleewyn Sprod

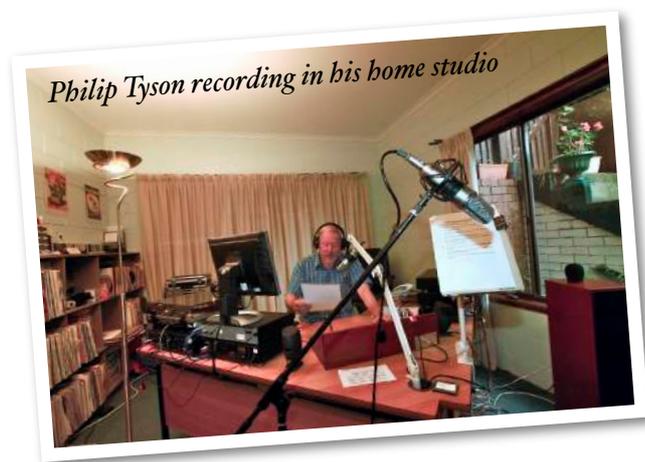
DID YOU KNOW?

RPH Print Radio Tasmania is very well endowed with studios and equipment. We have four studios, each capable of going to air and for producing programmes. We also have a production area in the office for preparing programmes that will be broadcast automatically by computer. Many community radio stations (including other RPH stations) are envious of our extensive facilities.

But, there's more. Thanks to the plummeting prices of audio equipment and computers, volunteers at RPH are beavering away reading and recording programmes in their homes.

'Jazz notes' for example, comes from Brian Evans's home in South Hobart. He records the major part of his programme on his home computer where he has access to his extensive collection of music. When he's finished recording, he brings it on a computer memory stick into the studios at RPH where he makes the final touches.

Philip Tyson has been producing radio programmes and voice-over work in his home studio for many years. He can record on to computer or mini-disc, though he prefers the latter since he is more familiar with Sony's now venerable recording medium. He drops off his programmes to the station on mini-disc or CD. Philip's recordings pop up as 'filler' programmes when regular material is not available.



Peter Johnston never really got the hang of mini-discs: he was away from broadcasting when they became prevalent. He records his weekly 'Media Talk' programme on his MacPro computer. He 'delivers' the final product to RPH Print Radio by uploading the file over the internet to RPH Australia's computer server in Adelaide. Mel and Philip download the programme along with material from our sister RPH stations on the Big Island. 'Media Talk' is a well-travelled programme, you could say.



Meanwhile Miles Flanagan, heard variously as a presenter and a reader in 'Examiner Features' and 'From far and wide', uses Audacity software at home to record a book for later broadcast.

Ron Anderson tells us that he's recorded and delivered programmes from various locations away from the RPH studios, some of them outside of Tasmania. That's how he manages to appear regularly in 'The Columnists' and 'Travelling'.

Making programmes in all sorts of places adds another dimension to the magic of radio.

Peter Johnston

— When he's not volunteering for RPH, Peter can also be found riding his mountain bike in the bush in Wellington Park.

TRIP WIRE — TRAPS FOR READERS



Over on page three Syliva Watkins recounts how she came unstuck after successfully handling difficult foreign words. Sometimes the writing itself brings us down. What appears innocent enough in print can present fiendish challenges to vocalise easily. Peter Johnston took three goes to deal with this sentence from *The Age* for 'Media Talk' recently. (He's grateful he was pre-recording the programme.)

Over in Britain, however, stitched-up Oxbridge-accented anchors went Cool Britannia way back in the Blair years.

A note from your editor

One of the very enjoyable features of editing this newsletter has been the motivation it has given me to look around the world to see what other community reading services are offering and to read of their experiences.

As Peter says, very few if any are as well-equipped as our station.

However, they are valued for the same enormous contribution to the enjoyment and particular needs of people who are not able to read widely, if at all.

A study of blind and sight impaired citizens in 2000 saw that "health, income and finance, were the most worrying problems", and "the next most frequently needed topics were recreation, government and consumer issues, housing and accommodation**." We, I think, provide all this and more.

That "information is power", a phrase often used, and the need "to keep up with things", is brought home by the above profile of Margaret Wallace and also by a call made to a Kentucky Community radio service. It reads -

"We gotta know what's going on," says Barnard, who has been listening to Radio Eye for 17 years.

Do you rely on it?

"Yeah, buddy," he says.

Do you know what it takes to get the news to you?

"No, but I can imagine."

And he's right, it's no small task as we all know.

Helen Martin

** *Information Research*, Vol. 5 No.4, July 2000, Monash University and School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University Australia

VALUE OF YOUR VOLUNTEERING

The striking difference between our radio service and all of the mainstream stations is **you**, our valuable volunteers. If we were not a **community**-based broadcaster able to utilise your willingness and skills, we would need to pay a large number of employees to achieve all the coverage of the air hours for our community of interest. A quick bit of work on a calculator shows we would need over four times our current annual budget, with most of it for wages. The station pays only 40 per cent of its annual budget now in wages for Mel and Philip.

