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July 2013

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# Clippings

## Issue

# 14



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For volunteers and members of RPH Print Radio Tasmania

# The Wednesday team

Meet the wonderful folk  
who make Wednesdays run  
smoothly at RPH.



# Wednesdays on RPH



Wednesday has seen a stable team develop. Richard Walters opens up at 7.15 and prepares Studio 1 for the Australian. Gill Robinson and Giles Hugo arrive soon after and do an outstanding job of preparing the Australian, the *Mercury*, the *Examiner* and the *Advocate* for the readers. Gill stays on to read at 10.00 and Giles prepares and reads for the recording of 'Northern Features' with Merlene Abbott. Ron 'Android' Andersen pre-records 'Just Ones and Zeros' which opens the day's programming at eight o'clock. Yvonne Stadler and Lia Le Grove alternate week by week to read the *Australian* with Richard.

Meanwhile, sitting quietly at his computer, Vincent Henderson is putting the following week's programs into the computer system so that the various presenters can retrieve and play them as required.

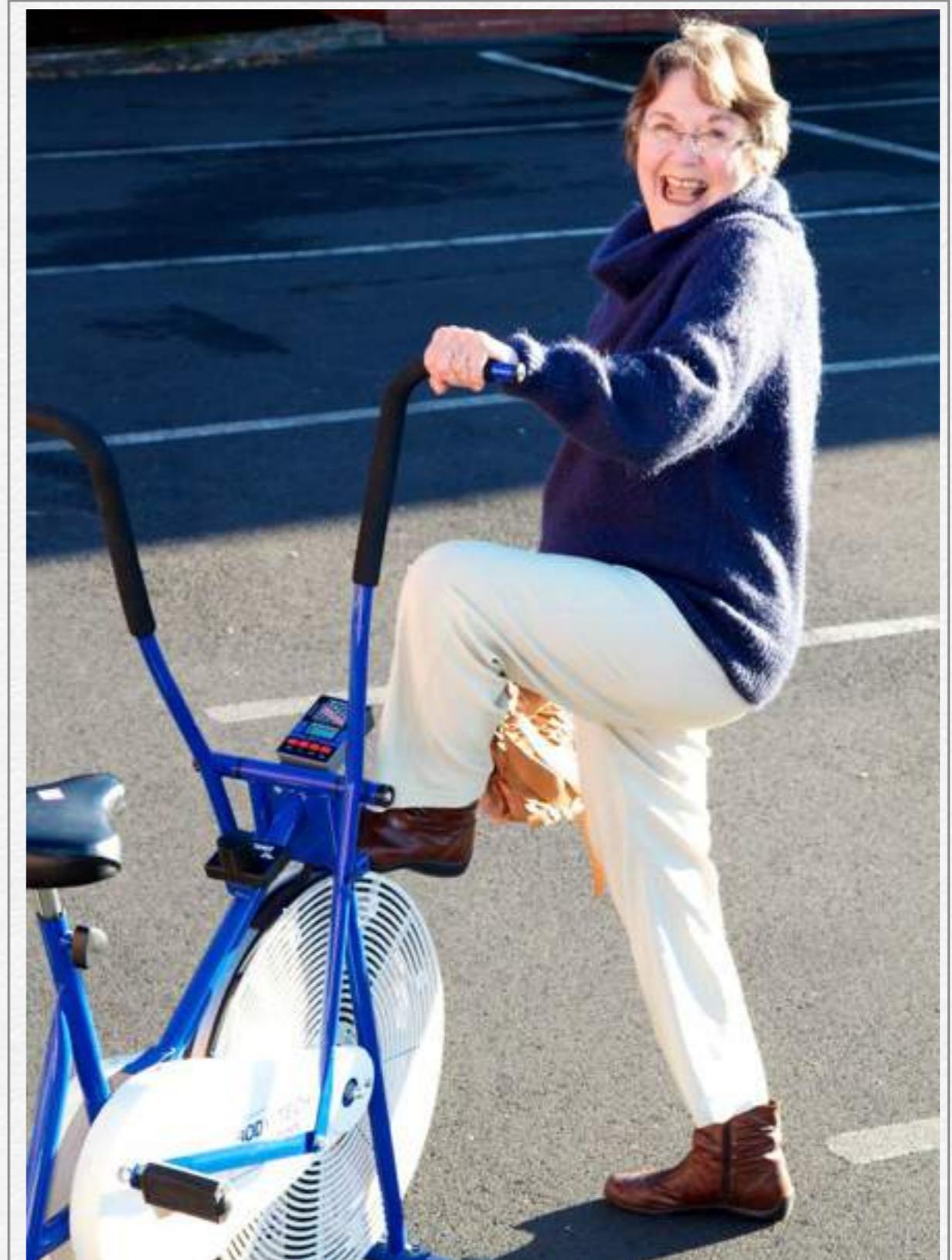
At 10.00 the *Australian* team hands over to the Tasmanian newspaper teams who then run the show until noon. The *Mercury* presenter is Marilyn Chenault, with readers Penny Gaunson and Wendy Worsley. Cate Harding presents the *Examiner* and the *Advocate*. Gill Robinson moves upstairs to read and is joined by Annie Quarmby. Giles Hugo takes off his article preparation hat and records 'Northern Features' with Merlene Abbott.

Marilyn Chenault then stays on to present the afternoon programs, and Maggie McKerracher and friends (variously Katie Holness, Annie Quarmby or Paul Morris) record 'About Movies'.

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Paul is also the late afternoon presenter, and he's usually the last person to leave the studios when programming switches to the BBC World Service.

On this day also, 'Bon Appetit' is usually recorded, and Mary Davis' voice will be sadly missed from this program as she shortly relocates to Sydney.



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## Focus on Wednesday Reader Wendy Worsley

I'm the fifth daughter of a farmer and his wife, with two convict forebears. My parents both had brilliant singing voices and, no, it skipped a generation.

My beloved father died of a cerebral haemorrhage when I was thirteen years old, putting to an end my ambition of becoming a chemist. I married the wrong man at the age of 19 but together we produced two daughters, whom I adore. I've lived happily alone since my daughters married. Each of them has produced a grandchild – both extremely talented, of course.

I try to do my bit at RPH because my mother gradually became totally blind.

Wendy Worsley



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## Focus on Wednesday presenter Cate Harding

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*'You're listening to RPH Print Radio Tasmania, broadcasting on 106.9 FM in Launceston and 96.1FM in Devonport. I'm Cate Harding your presenter...'*

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I've had the privilege of spending a morning or two a week at RPH since April 2011 reading, presenting and producing.

Originally from the Mid-North Coast of NSW, I moved to Hobart in 2009 with my husband and two children. My husband is a Launie boy and after living in Sydney, Melbourne and Tacoma (Washington, USA) he finally convinced me to move to Hobart. This was the best decision we've made for our little family.

My career before children involved working in advertising, working for APRA (Australian Performing Rights Association) licensing radio stations and working at the Department of Education in Melbourne. Since having children, I've been fortunate enough to stay at home and be involved in their amazing young lives. At university I majored in radio production and this is what has brought me to RPH. It's wonderful to put some of that old knowledge into practice and have the flexibility to be there for my children as well. (Interesting fact: Vaughan and I attended the same university at the same time.)

My two favourite things are food and travel and they certainly go hand in hand. In the past six months I've been lucky enough to venture overseas on two occasions. Over Christmas we had a wonderful time visiting Singapore and Europe. We had an incredibly steamy time in Singapore and the perfect White Christmas in Austria, skiing on Christmas Day. This was followed by a wonderful time exploring London and seeing the sights, and an unforgettable bike tour through Paris devouring many a delicious crêpe and profiterole!

In April, to celebrate my birthday, I had a ten-day express trip to China with two girlfriends.... it was incredible! What an intriguing, beautiful culture. We ate amazing food, attended a cooking class in the hutongs (alleyways) of Beijing and climbed the Great Wall. Just brilliant!

Brilliant also is my Wednesday morning, which I look forward to each week. After dropping the kids at school I join the gang at RPH and share a couple of hours with the lovely Gill Robinson and Annie Quarmby, who never fail to bring a smile to my face. Together we enjoy a giggle or three and hopefully entertain our wonderful RPH listeners in Launceston and Devonport.



*Cate Harding*

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## Focus on Wednesday reader Gill Robinson

On Wednesday mornings the alarm goes at 6.00. The sun rises, casting a yellow, orange and golden glow over the Eastern Shore hills. I park at the Globe Hotel car park and walk down Davey Street. Behind me the mountain is sometimes pink from the sunrise and sometimes misted in white cloud. It's a good start to the day.

Arriving at the RPH studio, I'm greeted by Richard with a cheery 'Good morning', the papers are sorted, the heater on and the room warm. Giles arrives at the same time and the business of the day begins. We cut up the *Australian* first, selecting the most relevant and interesting articles for the 8.30 readers. Giles then works on the *Mercury* and I juggle the articles from the *Examiner* and the *Advocate* newspapers.

By 9.45, Vaughn, Mel, Vince, Merlene, Wendy, Penny, Cate, Annie and Marilyn have arrived and by 10.00 we are ready to read the local newspapers live to air.

After moving from the North West coast seven years ago, working at 7RPH has provided friendly companions and also helps me to keep up with the news! It's an honour to help provide this wonderful service for our loyal listeners.

*Gillian Robinson*

## Focus on Wednesday Presenter Marilyn Chenault

I was born in Adelaide, but have travelled widely and lived in many different places, including six years in England and two in the USA. I worked for a time as an air stewardess and married an American pilot from Kentucky. Together we fitted out an old bus and travelled around, fossicking for opals at Lightning Ridge, before running an air charter business.

I was widowed 20 years ago and lived for several years in Dubbo, where I was an early morning tour guide at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. I still miss the animals very much.

I came down to Tasmania six years ago, initially to study photography at TAFE, and I've been at 7RPH for a couple of years now. As well as presenting on Wednesdays, I work on 'From Far and Wide' and 'Mercury Features' and am rostered at the weekends. I love it!!

My other volunteer job is at the Red Cross, where I'm an English tutor to asylum seekers on bridging visas. I've worked with Afghanis, Koreans and Iranians, and most of those I've met will make wonderful citizens and great workers. One is already doing voluntary work and others would too, if their English was up to it.

I love snow, mountains, skiing, English Choral music, photography, butterflies, small birds and travel, travel, travel... especially to Asian countries. I've visited Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, Mongolia, China and the Ladakh region of northern India. I've been skiing in Canada several times and two years ago I visited Patagonia and Antarctica. I have a long bucket list of other places I'd love to visit — the Norwegian fjords, Iceland...must see both aurooras... At the moment, though, I'm in the process of moving from a retirement village in Kingston (ugh!) to a large house in Judbury. I think this is my 35th move!



By the way, did I say that Annie Quarmby and I swam in the sea at Snug till six weeks ago and if Annie hadn't gone away, we'd probably still be doing it... and No, No, No, we didn't do the Dark MOFO swim!

*Marilyn Chenault*



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## Focus on Wednesday Presenter

### Richard Walters

As many of you will remember, my potted bio appeared in this august publication a year or so ago. Since that time I have acquired another grandson and two granddaughters. Other than that, life has just carried on with no earth-shattering events to report.

How did I come to volunteer for 7RPH?

When I lived in Canberra, I often drove past the RPH facility there – it's difficult to miss as the studio and the transmitter are co-located. A near neighbour was an RPH volunteer and I often wondered what she did.

Soon after arrival in Hobart, I volunteered for work with the Red Cross as a lecturer on International Humanitarian Law. As you might expect, the ongoing need for such a person in southern Tasmania is somewhat limited so the position developed into a general speaker on the work of the Red Cross and I got to visit all sorts of community organisations. This came to an end when, out of the blue, I was offered a job to look after Defence's real estate in Tasmania. This lasted just over two years and I took to volunteering again as a Small Business Mentor and as a member of the Defence Reserves Support Committee.

I didn't find either of these fully satisfying so I took to the Volunteering Tasmania website to find something else... and here I am fully enjoying myself. My only regret is that, by the nature of the task, I don't get to meet the many valuable members of Team RPH who work different shifts. (*Now, what can be done about that? – Ed.*)

*Richard Walters*

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## Focus on Wednesday reader Yvonne Stadler

I was born and bred in Tasmania. Our father's position as a schoolteacher ensured that we moved from one township to another, but the place we stayed longest is still the one I associate with childhood —King Island.

After marriage, my husband and I lived for nine years in Berlin, where our three children were born. On our return I was surprised to learn that many people thought I had an accent. Others thought I was English (including some English people). Today, they are more likely to comment that I have a 'slight' Australian accent. Whichever is the truth, I am one of the 'Wednesday readers', or more correctly, one of the 'alternate' Wednesday readers of the *Australian*. Despite the unkind jibes from a few of my friends who ask me why I get up so early to read 'that right-wing rag', I enjoy it. I like the well-written articles by top journalists. I even enjoy the challenge of foreign names — European, that is. Chinese words, especially those beginning with 'X', give me high blood-pressure.

I auditioned for the job of reader in 2001, several months after the death of my husband. His hobby had been amateur filmmaking, and I had been the voice-over for his documentaries. As well as reading for Print Radio, my life since then has in-

cluded a BA from UTAS and the continuation of writing interests.

I have committed cardinal sins. I once forgot my glasses and on another occasion I confused my 'alternate' Wednesdays and was awoken with a phone call at 8.45am by an anxious Vaughn. But at 10am my genuine, profuse apologies were met, not with righteous anger, but empathy and kindness.

Yes, we receive praise for our service to the community, but that service is appreciated and, thanks to our wonderful staff, it's fun!

*Yvonne Stadler*



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## Focus on Wednesday reader Penny Gaunson

I'd wanted to be involved in radio for most of my life, so when I was accepted as a reader at RPH about five years ago, my dream finally came true. I love every moment of it. Usually I read the *Mercury* on Wednesdays with Wendy Worsley, who has become a very good friend. I'm about to complete recording my third novel for the station, and fill in elsewhere as necessary.

It's a small world! After about a week at RPH I bumped into Belinda Kendall-White. We'd been at Melbourne Girls Grammar

together and caught the same train and tram each day.

In the 1970s, I had the dubious honour of being Australia's first female motoring writer, and my weekends were spent travelling Australia covering motor sport events or testing cars from a female point of view.

These days, my husband Phil and I breed Samoyed dogs. We currently have four, ranging in age from eleven to eighteen



months. Over the years we've shown these dogs and have bred seventeen champions. Last year, our youngest dog Charlie was the most successful Samoyed aged eighteen months or under in the country, and also the most successful dog from all the breeds in Tasmania aged under eighteen months. Needless to say we are very proud of him, even though he is quite a handful, and if anything goes wrong at home you can bet Charlie will somehow be involved. The dogs are primarily pets and well and truly spoilt.

When I'm not occupied with the dogs and RPH, I rather enjoy visiting the State Cinema or the cinema out at Mona. In addition I do relief administration work at CSIRO Ecosystems.

I'm currently participating in freezin for a reason, a fund-raiser organised through the Hobart Town Lions Club. On 18 August, I jump into the freezing waters of the Derwent River (which I'm not looking forward to). The money I raise will be shared between RPH (70%) and Lions Club charities (30%). At the time of writing I've secured \$750 for the cause and have set myself a goal of \$2000. If you would like to support me you can send a cheque made out to me to RPH, or go to <http://freezinforareason.gofundraise.com.au/page/rph>. You'll see me there with Bailey, my beloved Samoyed.

*Penny Gaunson*

# Reports

Here's the latest from our station manager Vaughn, our president Ron and volunteers coordinator Margaret



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## From the manager's desk

Hello again all, Firstly, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for making this year, my first with RPH Print Radio, a great one! I know I've said this before, but I can't say often enough that it is directly owing to your efforts that this station is such a happy place, and a dynamic place to be!

To those people who have joined us since the last newsletter, a very warm welcome, and may you find your experiences and adventures with RPH Print Radio Tasmania happy ones! My door is always open if you have any queries, or just want to have a chat.

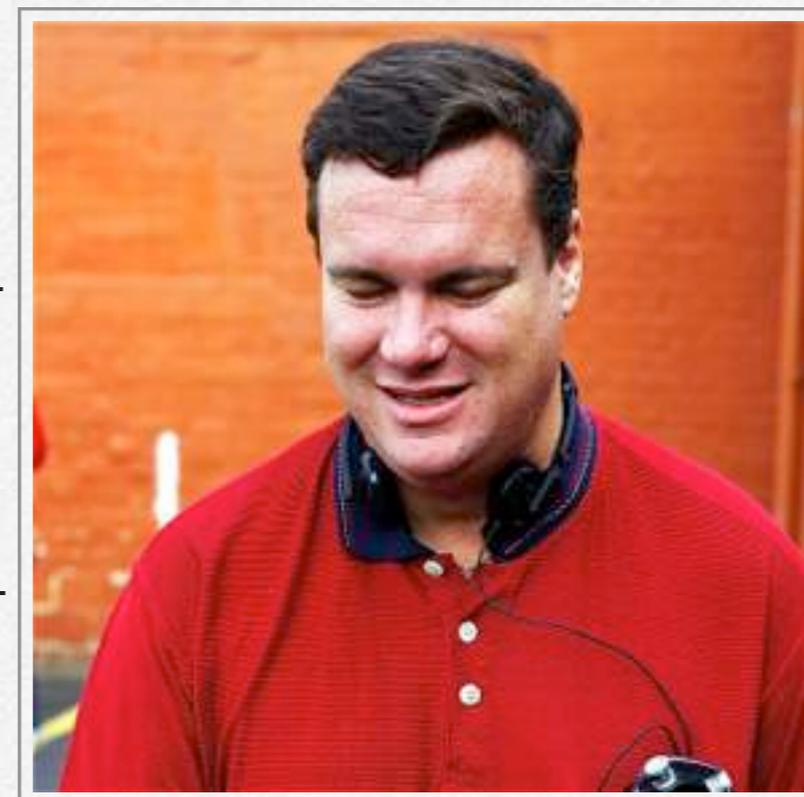
In fact, this goes for all volunteers and members! Seldom do we receive feedback on how the decisions we make, or the paths we take, impact on the volunteers. It is just as good to hear constructive criticism as it is to hear how well something is going. So, I would ask you all to have a think about what we do, and let us know how we could do it better!

Of late, we have been plagued with some technical difficulties, which Mel, Ron and I, as well as others are busily working on. The plan is to upgrade some of our studio computers, as well as the automation and switching computers, to ensure that these difficulties are alleviated. So please bear with us as we sort this out!

I'm always looking for new program ideas. Recently, a volunteer has suggested a program focusing on local politics and it has also been suggested that we do readings from the commentary section of the *Age*, to balance the A-plus commentary program from the *Aus-*

*tralian*, which is often perceived as one-sided. If anyone is interested in pursuing either of these programs, or has any other ideas for sustainable programs, I'd be happy to hear about it! The more local programming we can produce, the more funding we're eligible to apply for.

Later on in the year, we need to re-evaluate our strategic plan, and have a discussion of where we want to go in the next five years or so. So, if anyone would like to be involved in this process, please let Mel or me know. All members will be invited to participate, but it would be good to have ideas before this. It is a very important process as it helps us to determine what to focus on in the next few years.



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This is, of course, the chilly season here in Hobart, so we've had quite a few people away of late. To those people who are, or have been ill, we hope you get better soon. To those of you who are not, let's hope it stays that way! I know we have had to call upon you a lot more in the past few weeks, but hopefully that should settle down. To those of you who have given us extra assistance, thanks very much, we really do appreciate it!

Finally, to all of those volunteers who have left us, or are leaving us, I wish you the best of luck with your future.

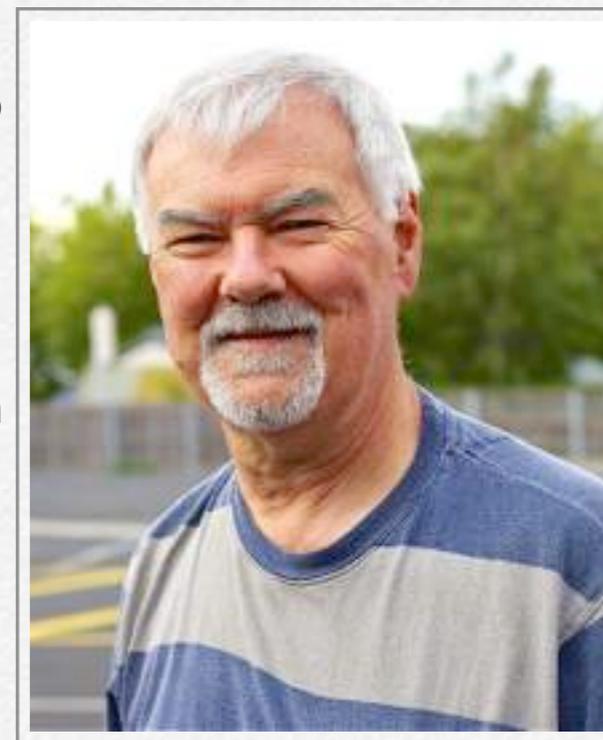
Once again, thank you all, and see you around!

*Vaughn Bennison  
StationManager*

## Presidential Ponderings

My fellow members and volunteers, Winter greetings to everyone! Now that the shortest day of the year has passed, we normally expect things to just get better from now on and I do hope everyone is feeling in that sort of mood. Unfortunately, the sentiment can be lost on 7RPH around this time of the year because it's from now on that the annual 'great winter exodus' occurs and lots of volunteers head for warmer climes, either in mainland Australia or overseas. If you are one of those volunteers, I'd like to wish you a happy holiday and hope you come back refreshed, if not a little warmed, to the 7RPH 'family' soon.

If you're staying around for the Tasmanian winter, I'd ask you to have a look at your diary for the next couple of months and see if you can spare a little extra time for the station. 7RPH can always use additional names on the 'filling in' list, whereby you might be called up from time to time to see if you're available to fill a shift left vacant by someone who is away. If you can help out, several people would be extremely grateful, not least our hard-working Coordinator of Volunteers, Margaret, herself a volunteer.



Just reiterating my advice from the last Newsletter — the station is now 'streaming' via the internet. This means that our programs can be heard online via the internet, not only anywhere in Tasmania but anywhere in the world. To hear it, type <http://tunein.com/radio/7RPH-864-s107730/> into your web browser or follow the 'Listen Online' link on our internet site, [www.7rph.org.au](http://www.7rph.org.au).

That's all from me for winter. Happy volunteering.

*Ron Andersen  
President*

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## Rostering and volunteer news

Our RPH family tends to scatter far and wide, especially in winter. We are missing some who have fled to warmer climes, but welcome back some others. We farewell Gill McLean as she returns to England, and look forward to her next trip to check on her Australian grandchildren. Gill's expertise as a reader of the *Australian* on Mondays and Tuesdays have been much appreciated, as has her commitment as editor of our newsletter.

Regina Share has returned, after a year in Lithuania. It's good to see a bridge player return to the fold. We expect Rasa Dunlop back in a month or so, and Rosemary Peterswald will return in October. Talking of bridge players, we welcome Ann Halliday who has begun work with us a research person – that is in newspaper preparation, not bridge techniques, you understand. Vaughn threatens to take up bridge so that he can work out what we are talking about. Phil Beck will represent Tasmania in the Australian Championships this month, and we wish him well.

We have a few new readers. We welcome Lou Woolley (another bridge player, would you believe) and Trudi Elder.

I'm pleased to be back after a month in Italy. I joined with British groups for two weeks of walking in the high country. I especially enjoyed walking in Umbria, staying in Norcia. It was the right time for wildflowers – wild thyme, narcissus, daisies, asphodel,

poppies and gentians. On our free day I was pleased with my choice to visit Assisi. My trip ended with three nights of opera in the ancient Roman Coliseum, called The Arena. A summer storm held off long enough for the final night, featuring Aida by Verdi. Performances end at 1 a.m., making it a tour de force. The opera was quite a contrast to the night in the hotel in Norcia when the next table of Irish walkers began an impromptu song battle. I was able to join in lustily with almost all of the English songs, much to the surprise of our friends from the old country. 'On Ilkla' Moor baht'at' went down well, silencing the Irish for quite some time.

As ever, thank you all for your week by week commitment. It is much appreciated.

*Margaret Gibbs*  
Volunteers Co-ordinator



# Stories

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**More of Vaughn's journey from New Zealand to Tasmania; Paul has a great anecdote from his days at The Palais in Melbourne; and Mel explains how he found himself in the Huon Valley.**

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## Vaughn's story

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*In a previous issue of 'Clippings', Vaughan wrote about his early childhood in New Zealand, where from the age of five, he was a weekly boarder at a school for the blind in Auckland.*

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We came to Australia when I was ten, and I hated it! I think the change was more significant for me than for anyone else in the family, especially as my parents kept insisting it was because of me that we moved! I went from seeing my family on weekends, and living in a hostel with seven other children and having about five in my class, to living with my family (one younger brother) and having thirty kids in the class.

Upon arriving in Australia I was sent to the school of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, where the braille code for Mathematics was significantly different to that in New Zealand. Unfortunately I was at grade five level, and the highest grade they had was grade four, so I was put back a year. As I was significantly older than the rest of the kids in my class, this led to some further difficulty!

After six months there, I went to Box Hill primary school – a mainstream school where I completed my final two years of primary education. This was a difficult time for me, as I not only had to deal with a totally different schooling situation, but my parents decided it was finally time for them to split up, which changed things again!

I moved on to Box Hill High, where I went through to year twelve. I found it rather difficult to make friends there as the school was very sports focused, and I've never really been interested in sport. I did however find a couple of other musicians, and we were the school band. The music teacher was pretty useless, so we had fairly much a free hand in the music room and had lots of fun. I have played piano and keyboard since the age of six and I did this in the band, but taught myself to play bass as well. We did quite a few local gigs and performed for the school several times. I ran the school choir for several years, and was tasked with running the end of year revue for three years running. This was to be my first experience in events management, something I do not particularly enjoy!

Upon finishing high school, it was time to decide on a university. I wanted, in point of fact, to study psychology, but always felt I wasn't any good at anything except music. So I applied to several universities in Melbourne. Towards the end of year twelve, a good friend came to stay and told me about a course he was applying for in Lismore, New South Wales, studying contemporary music. This seemed right up my alley, so I applied and was accepted. For some reason I applied for vocal rather than keyboard. I think I thought I wouldn't be good enough for keyboard studies, but as it turned out, they only took one keyboard person that year and I ended up doing a lot more accompanying than singing! In my first semester I accompanied for some thirteen exams. I think my record was nineteen!

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Throughout this course I developed a strong interest in audio engineering, which became my first love, and something I have continued to this day! I also studied a minor in Radio, and got involved with the university-run station in my last year or so down there.

I became involved in 4RPH in Brisbane even before leaving Lismore, as I met a couple of station volunteers at an RPH conference in Sydney. They told me that one of their producers was going on holiday, and it just happened that my wife and I were going to Brisbane at the same time. She is from Brisbane (although born in England) so we spent quite a bit of time there. That is of course, why we moved there at the end of 1998.

Since moving to Brisbane, I have done several things! I have of course, been involved with 4RPH as a producer, announcer, board member and general dog's-body; I have been a music teacher; IT specialist (I set up my own recording studio); and a stay-at-home parent. One of the main things I did was format conversions, especially doing 78rpm records. I have been a record collector for many years and have several thousand records, including about 1200 78s, and I particularly enjoy listening to older recordings.

My wife and I were married in 1997, and we have two children — Julian who is nine, and Lucy who is five. Both kids like their new school and Lucy particularly loves living an easy walk to Hungry Jacks! I was glad to have the opportunity to move down

here to Hobart, as I very much enjoy cooler climates. It is also great to live so close to the city, because I enjoy walking. I now have the opportunity to walk to virtually anything I need!

My wife is the CEO of Arts Access Australia, a national organisation which assists people with disabilities in the arts, so that keeps us busy! She has to travel quite a bit, which of course leaves me at home with the kids. As I have been the primary carer for our children for the past nine years, it's not particularly arduous! My wife is not particularly looking forward to the coming winter, but to be honest, it's my favourite time of the year!

So, that brings us up to date, except to say that we are now fully paid-up members of Hobart society(!), as recently we bought a house in South Hobart. I am now even closer to work, and the kids are happy to be much closer to school. It gives us plenty of room, and the house has a lot of character. We have a cat and a dog, and my daughter informs me that she would like a pet mermaid!



*Vaughn Bennison*

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## From the Dress Circle

Two new stage productions were opening in Melbourne on the same evening — *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin*, starring Gordon Chater, at the Playbox Theatre in Russell Street, and *At Least You Can Say You've Seen It*, starring Dame Edna Everage, at the Palais Theatre in St Kilda.

The curtain was about to rise on the Dame Edna production. The Theatre Manager had been instructed to select a likely couple at the door to the stalls. These unsuspecting theatre-goers would be escorted to their seats via the longest possible route, giving Dame Edna (who was armed with an industrial strength torch in her handbag) the opportunity to introduce the audience to **the latecomers**

Unfortunately, the Theatre Manager (me) selected a mature couple from Glen Iris who, it turned out, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and had been given the theatre tickets by their son. The usher took this charming couple down to their seats via the longest way, disturbing everyone in the row — only to discover that the seats were already occupied. The usher retreated to the foyer with the couple in tow. This, of course, did not go unnoticed by Dame Edna.

I was summoned from my office. After a great deal of confusion, it was discovered that the tickets held by the celebrating couple were in fact for *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* at the Play-

box, and not for the Palais Theatre at all. And it was now too late for them to travel to Russell Street to see their show.

Well, big softy that I am, I found myself offering the couple the Royal Box along with a complimentary bottle of wine.

I was escorting them through the bowels of the theatre when the husband chirped up, 'Our son said the show was about some old geyser who likes to frock up!' It was all I could do to conceal my amusement, as indeed both productions involved men in frocks.



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During the interval, Dame Edna was informed by her manager (Barry Humphries) of the old couple sheepishly peering over the edge of the Royal Box. And needless to say, Dame Edna got her revenge for having her grand entrance upset.

Meanwhile, back in my office, I thought I'd better call the Play-box and explain why they had two empty seats front centre for their opening night. I was informed through much giggling that those seats were now occupied by two bemused cleaners from the tax office over the road.

If there is a moral to this tale, I guess it is this: never go on other people's description of a theatre piece, always check your tickets, and always be sure you are in the right theatre before you take a seat.

P.S. When hiring the Palais Theatre in St Kilda, Mr Humphries and his client Dame Edna Everage have a rider in the contract. The Royal Box seats are reserved for that couple and their family in perpetuity...

*Paul Morris*

## **Life before (and during) RPH Hobart**

I was born the middle child of a family of five siblings born, and grew up in the Hunter Valley of NSW during the early 1950s. Werris Creek, Muswellbrook and Belmont were my homes until 1976 when I started teaching Science at Macquarie Fields (south-west of Liverpool).

It was a tough school and it wore me out enough to make me apply annually for a transfer — anywhere — after I had seen out seven years of service. After a lack of success in that regard, I applied for long-service leave in my tenth and subsequent years, until I finally resigned from the NSW State Education system and joined the Catholic system.

It was a sharp contrast with teaching in my previous school, with discipline a lot tighter and the kids a lot more co-operative. Classrooms became places of learning again and my job satisfaction increased. Having being a pioneer of computer technology in my first school, I was quickly seconded to get the ball rolling in my new school as Learning Technologies Coordinator. This was fun and gave me an opportunity to work with staff and students in using computers to benefit their lives.

Long hours and a long commute from my home in Mittagong resulted in weight gain, and my doctor firmly advised me to change my ways... or else. Fortunately, Mittagong offered numerous bushwalks and I became a very active member of the

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local bushwalking group — organising walks in the area and developing new and more challenging ones, as well. I got involved in the NSW Bushwalking Search and Rescue organisation, and participated in a number of rescues in the Blue Mountains and South Coast of NSW. On a few occasions, I was involved in body recoveries of walkers who, accidentally or otherwise, put an end to their existence.



After moving to Tassie in January 2004, I started looking for work. With no real success in getting a teaching job, I took casual work in hospitality (at the Tahune Air Walk) and training (at the Huon LINC).

I started work at RPH in October 2005, with Philip French my first real ‘boss’ outside a school environment. Until then, I’d filled my hours with volunteer work at another small radio station at Geeveston which, coincidentally, Peter Johnston had founded way back in the early eighties. I was their chief technical officer, announcer, President, Treasurer and Committee Member for a fair while, but that’s a story for another time.

Nowadays, I live a quiet life in the Huon Valley involving myself in various building projects and enjoying a country lifestyle. I stay nearer to Hobart during the week to ease the travelling and make myself a bit more available for work emergencies. Things environmental and technological rule my life, and of course, my work here at RPH. I have greatly enjoyed my life here so far, and I thank every one of you for being so co-operative and easy to get along with.

*Mel Lee  
Assistant Manager*