



Signals

For people who love to listen

March/April 2023



From left: Barry Melville, John Martin, Minister Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Peter Worthington, Vivian Schenker and Michele Watts

State Government restores 2RPH funding

After a recent burst of policy engagement and some high-level discussion, Radio 2RPH now has the benefit of bipartisan political support.

On 14 February the NSW Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones visited the station and met with Board members, volunteers, and staff. At first, keeping her powder dry, the Minister announced in a studio interview with Vivian Schenker that “the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is going to be investing \$130,000 to support Radio 2RPH to continue your work, which is really wonderful

“It is a testament to what you have been doing for 40 years now,” the Minister said.

Two years ago, in the midst of a wholesale government program review, Radio 2RPH lost its long-held annual government subsidy. So with the State election looming, we decided to strenuously pursue our singular objective.

Late last year the Shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion, Kate Washington had also visited the station and been interviewed for Signals by Vivian. We are grateful indeed for both the Shadow Minister’s and the current Minister’s unqualified support for our radio reading service and its significance in the lives of those living with disability.

John Martin, Chair of Radio 2RPH welcomed the Minister’s announcement: “We’re absolutely delighted by this grant, which will be critical in enabling the station to continue its services to people with disabilities”.

Barry Melville, 2RPH General Manager said: “Although it only covers a fraction of our overall revenue needs, renewed State Government funding is a real boost. I’m grateful that the NSW Department for Communities and Justice has put everything in place for the immediate reinstatement of funding under the Disability Advocacy Futures Program.”

“Government financial support at all levels - Commonwealth, State, and the City of Sydney Council - has been the mainstay of 2RPH revenue since the station began, and we are delighted to have regained bipartisan support from the NSW Government,” John Martin said.



Janice Challinor OAM

Honour becomes her - Janice Challinor OAM

The 2RPH station community is thrilled to congratulate our dedicated on-air volunteer Janice Challinor on being a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her tireless contribution to the local community.

Since her retirement after decades of service as a secondary school teacher specialising in the Social Sciences in the UK and in NSW, Janice has thrown herself into a life of community service including 11 years as a presenter/announcer at Radio 2RPH.

range of other volunteer roles including Elsie Women's Refuge, the Asylum Seeker Centre Sydney, the Rainbow Lodge and the State Emergency Service.

Janice has been recognised for her service to the community of Glebe where she was a Committee Member of The Glebe Society and Convenor of their Community Development Sub-committee for seven years.

Janice is the latest to join the 2RPH honour roll, including John Martin OAM, Ken Bock OAM, Robert Estcourt AM and Helen Bersten OAM.

Tune into the Signals radio broadcast at **3:15 pm** on **Monday, 27 March**, to hear Barry Melville's interview with Janice where she reflects on her community involvement and celebrates the support from those close to her.

Radio 2RPH has been re-branded

It's official – the new legal name of our organisation is **Radio 2RPH Co-operative Limited**. This follows from a resolution carried at the 2022 Annual General Meeting in November which culminated on 17 February 2023 with the Registrar of Co-operatives at NSW Fair Trading issuing us with a new certificate of registration.

The Board and station management are committed to a rebranding strategy that would eliminate the word 'handicapped' from all official and unofficial references to our organisation.

Globally the "h" word had fallen from acceptance, and it is now widely considered offensive. By current standards, it is not appropriate to apply the term to people with disability nor ascribe it to for-purpose organisations. This is made quite clear in the [language guide](#) issued by the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.

So we shall no longer refer to the old moniker Radio for the Print-Handicapped of New South Wales Co-operative Limited on air or in print. Following soon will be approval and registration by NSW Fair Trading of our revised co-operative rules.



2RPH Plus - Get with the program!

Radio 2RPH took the opportunity in November 2022 to start trial transmissions on an additional digital radio channel in Sydney. At first, it was our standard schedule, but in recent weeks we have begun trialling an alternative morning schedule on 2RPH Plus.

We have been broadcasting our 24/7 schedule in Sydney on a single digital channel since May 2011 and the industry regulator, the ACMA, is only now overseeing a timetable for regional expansion which may make DAB+ available in Newcastle and Wollongong in the future.

“What is DAB+?” I hear some of you ask. It stands for digital audio broadcasting and refers to the shared broadcast platform that was introduced by the radio industry and the Government in 2009. Digital radio, as its commonly described, is on the leading edge of the Australian radio broadcasting system. It is transmitted over the airwaves and should not be confused with streaming over the internet or listening to live radio via apps on portable devices, except if you have a newer phone or tablet that has a DAB+ chip built-in.

Digital radio is a free-to-receive broadcast platform and does not require an internet connection. So for many people, the preferred mode of listening involves a DAB+ radio either in the home radio or installed in the dashboard of your car (often with the dual capacity to also receive AM/FM).

greater choice due to an increased selection of digital services. Some digital radio receivers can also provide pause and rewind functions and on-screen information.

So if you can listen to digital radio at home or in the car, or you have the DAB+ chip in your phone or tablet, why don't you listen in to our channels – Radio 2RPH Digital and Radio 2RPH Plus. Our current trial of Radio 2RPH Plus features a fresh early morning schedule featuring a showcase of current popular programs such as Ageing with Attitude, History Today, Guardian Australia, Kaleidoscope, The New Statesman, and Geographica.

So for those up and at it at 6 am, get with the Radio 2RPH Plus program – well read radio!

Vale 2RPH volunteer Tony Strong and passionate 2RPH listener Susan Oxenham.

Radio 2RPH mourns the loss of long-time volunteer Tony Strong who passed away on 15 January 2023, and passionate 2RPH listener Susan Oxenham who passed away on 11 December 2022.

Tony presented the Breakfast program for 15 years with Philippa Harvey, both retiring in early 2022. He was renowned as a gentleman with a beautiful sense of humour and a delightful-sounding voice, appreciated by fellow volunteers and listeners alike.

Susan, legally blind since age 17, was a valued member of our listening community who provided the station with constant appreciation, encouragement, and feedback over several years. Those who attended the End of Year Celebration in 2021 will remember her as our guest speaker. Not only was Susan a highly regarded member of the artistic community, but she was also a fearless advocate for access and inclusion.





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