

[View this email in your browser](#)



Signals Content

Lead Story- Farewell and thanks to Di Collins

History of Community Radio- John Martin

Volunteer Spotlight- Rufina Ismail

Community Radio App- Take 2RPH with you on the go

Sponsor Spotlight- Sydney Disability Expo is Back

Membership- Renewals for 2022/23 now open

The Last Word- Di Collins

[Click here to read the Signals newsletter in PDF format.](#)

Find Us -

<https://www.facebook.com/Radio2RPH>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/radio-2rph/>

www.2rph.org.au

Enjoy!

Farewell Di Collins



Di Collins at the launch of our Wollongong transmission in February this year

Di Collins has been the longest serving chair in the 40-year history of 2RPH, and the contribution she has made has been notable. Volunteering firstly as a reader, then producer, as well as behind the scenes as the Chair of the Finance Committee, Deputy Chair and Chair, Di has had an interest in 2RPH since the early 90's and a more active interest since 2012. In the ten years Di has been a member eight and a half of those years have been on the Board, seven of which she has served as Chair. Underlying her involvement has been leading a talented team of volunteers, members and management. This combination has led to major improvements for 2RPH's unique radio reading service for the benefit of our community of interest.

As the 2022-23 financial year commenced, Di decided to conclude her role on the Board to enable a new Chair to lead the organisation through its next period of growth. Her final report as Chair has been emailed to all members and is available for all those who would like a copy. She will continue with 2RPH as a volunteer, producing and presenting her excellent and informative *Good Food* program.

Chair.

Throughout her term as Chair, Di demonstrated dedication, commitment and good humour. She has been an innovative leader who sought to maximise opportunities and address financial and pandemic challenges. During her term of office, there have been significant technical improvements, including expanding our service into new regions (Wollongong and the Illawarra); content diversification; strong growth in listenership, and in community and volunteer support and; marked improvements in 2RPH's financial position.

She attributes these outcomes to the strong support of the team which has enabled her to maintain her energy, enthusiasm and sense of humour.

Thanks Di, for your commitment to our shared purpose and for your approach to teamwork. We look forward to your ongoing involvement in 2RPH as a broadcaster, member and active volunteer.



Community Radio - 50 years young

By John Martin, 2RPH Chair

2RPH is one of more than 450 community-owned radio stations operating across the country. What makes us community broadcasters is that we are a not-for-profit, community-based radio service catering for a specific community – in the case of 2RPH, presenting programs specifically for people with a print disability, people who for any of a variety of reasons cannot readily access printed material, including newspapers, magazines and books.

You've probably heard that the ABC is currently celebrating its 90th birthday, and our congratulations go to them for their magnificent achievement. By comparison, community radio stations are but young things. The very first community radio station in Australia, was Radio Adelaide, then known as VL5UV owned by the University of Adelaide, which started broadcasting on 28 June 1972. Therefore, community broadcasting is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Radio Adelaide story is an interesting one, with its establishment made possible by a then anonymous donation, with money coming from the 1969 stock market bubble.

The University of Adelaide had a very active and successful Adult Education Department, who were keen to experiment with the broader reach of broadcasting to extend their adult education services. The University made two funding submissions to launch such a station but was knocked back.

Adelaide accountant Ken Stirling was a shareholder in the nickel miner Poseidon, and thanks to the 1969 stock market boom, found himself to fortuitously be a very rich man. Ken felt that it was money that he hadn't earned and therefore it should be used for the good of the community. Ken sold some of the shares and made a number of anonymous gifts, including to the Australian Conservation Foundation and another to the University of Adelaide – the latter specifically to set up a radio station.

Until then Australia had been limited to only two forms of radio – the government-run ABC and commercial radio. In the 1960's the ABC was a highly conservative, bureaucratic organisation with a very narrow, serious approach to programming. Commercial radio also had a very limited range of programs, dominated by Top 40 music and talk-back formats. With a much broader and dynamic range of content played by radio stations in other parts of the world, pressure was growing in Australia for radio to be opened up to fresh ideas and different ways of making radio.

Various community groups and organisations began agitating for change, including educational institutions, fine music enthusiasts, student groups, ethnic and Indigenous community organisations.

But the first steps were very tentative. The University of Adelaide was given a highly restrictive experimental licence for what was called VL5UV. The licence allowed it only to transmit lecture material relating to courses offered by the University and under no circumstances was music allowed. One of the producers at the station said: We had enormous debates at the time about whether a bird call was in fact a voice. If there was a birdcall in a Shakespeare performance, did one have to cut it out or not? ... the powers that be were fairly certain that anything that approached being at all interesting was certainly not what we were supposed to be doing."

The station was also not to promote itself, as that could attract casual listeners who were not enrolled University students.

And to make life even more challenging the station was transmitting on a frequency off the main AM radio band – requiring a slight adjustment of a radio receiver to pick up the signal – a technical limitation that 2RPH also experienced in its first few years.

But they were on-air, and after vigorous lobbying of the government, a year later their licence was amended to allow for the use of music for bridging and for background. And through such small steps, over several years, 5UV finally had the opportunity to blossom and become one of the leading community radio stations

Nowadays the station is called Radio Adelaide and is no longer run by the University, but continues presenting an eclectic selection of community-produced programs. We warmly congratulate them on their 50th birthday.

It took another decade before 2RPH received its first licence, and when we celebrate our 40th anniversary next year, we'll be telling you lots more about how that came about.

Meet one of our newest volunteers, Rufina Ismail

Rufina Ismail is one of the newest recruits and has taken on the role with gusto.

Since joining 2RPH Rufina has not only completed training as a reader but also taken on announcing duties and started a new children's book reading.

As with the majority of our volunteers at 2RPH, prior to auditioning for the station Rufina had no prior radio experience. When she sat down to talk to *Signals*, we asked her what inspired her to get involved?

Having retired just before the first COVID lockdown, as soon as restrictions were lifted Rufina was eager to get back out into the community and was looking for something to do. Knowing she didn't want to go back into paid work she started exploring volunteer opportunities, starting off at her local library. Thinking about what might be of interest she recalls her husband telling her about an old family friend who had been a reader for 2RPH back in the 70s when we were based on the north shore.

Despite having spent many years working in software development after originally training as an actuary, Rufina's real passion remains language. Whilst she says she isn't a polygot, Rufina says she's dabbled in several and speaks 3 or 4 fluently. For her, being a reader on 2RPH has allowed her to indulge her passion, reading the world news being a particular pleasure. She says, "it's just so different to anything I've ever done, everyone is so lovely and helpful.

It's been great, I feel like I've landed somewhere where I can use a lot of my previous skills to some good. And that's great for me. And because I haven't started on a regular shift, I'm trying lots of different shifts and I'm getting to meet a wide range of the volunteers."

We're delighted to welcome Rufina to the team at 2RPH and look forward to hearing her voice on the airwaves for many years to come.

Radio 2RPH Now Available on Community Radio App

Radio 2RPH is constantly on the lookout for new ways our audience can listen to and engage with our programs.

So we are delighted to announce that 2RPH is now available on the go, via the Community Radio Plus app. The Community Broadcast Association of Australia recently launched the app on iOS and Android.

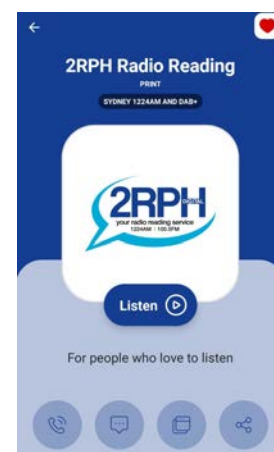
The app features 300 community stations from across Australia, meaning you'll never run out of shows to listen to!

The app works on your phone, tablet or iPad and is free to install and access.

The app also works with voice-activated audio systems such as Amazon's Alexa and Google Nest or Carplay.

We will continue to add additional on-demand content to the 2RPH page so you can access our podcasts whenever suits you.

<https://communityradio.plus/>





FRI 5TH & SAT 6TH
AUGUST 2022
🕒 **9AM - 3PM** 

📍 **EXHIBITION HALL 4, SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK**

FREE ENTRY

SAM BLOOM
speaking at the expo on the 5th

The banner features a woman in a grey beanie and white shirt smiling and kissing a grey parrot on the cheek. The background is a light green and white gradient.

Radio 2RPH is excited to partner with the Impact Institute to promote the upcoming Sydney Disability Expo. Featuring a broad cross-section of innovators, services and equipment suppliers the event provides a fantastic opportunity to see what's new in the sector.

With over 200 exhibitors attendees will be able to engage with leading advocacy organisations, care providers, new aids and equipment. There will also be kids' entertainment and live performances.

Entry is free with a variety of special events and talks also taking place over the two-day event. If you do make it along, please come and find 2RPH and have a chat to our staff and volunteers who will be there for the entire 2 day event.

To find out more and register your attendance: www.sydneydisabilityexpo.com.au/

Radio 2022/23 Membership Renewal Now Open

Our new membership year started on the 1st of July and we'd love to have your support. 2RPH is run as a not-for-profit co-operative organisation and we invite our listeners and volunteer community to become members.

Membership provides you with voting rights at our AGM and a say in the future of the direction of 2RPH.

To become a member visit www.2rph.org.au/members or give us a call on **02 9518 8811** to join.

The Last Word with Di Collins: Volunteering

The past two years have created incredible disruption throughout communities around the world, and, while we have managed to continue our broadcasts, it has not been easy. We remain indebted to those volunteers who helped us remain on air. The disruptions have continued as has the pandemic, and communities are warned that it is not yet over. With around 10,000 new cases each day in NSW the numbers are higher than during lock-down.

Added to this is the understandable enthusiasm for a return to normal and many of our volunteers are now catching up on delayed travel and family reunion plans. So if you've noticed that not all programs have gone to air then that is due to the lingering impact of COVID.

All this means we need more volunteers to help us fill reading slots and to join us in taking news and articles to all those unable to access published material. So if you'd like to help out, or know someone who might, then do contact Nicola Snell, our Office Manager on 92588811.

If, for any reason, it's not possible for you to volunteer then please do consider: renewing your membership; becoming a member; making a donation, or letting us know you plan to leave a bequest to 2RPH. There are many ways to be involved and our upcoming membership renewal and donation drive is another important way to help us to keep an eye on the future.

Although my term of office has concluded, I will continue to volunteer at 2RPH for as long as I'm needed, and as I mentioned I hope to see many others join me....so please think about volunteering with us. It's a fun group of people!





[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

[RSS](#)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
2RPH · 7/184 Glebe Point Road · Glebe, NSW 2037 · Australia