

# TYGAbies



E-NEWSLETTER OF DERWENT VALLEY COMMUNITY RADIO INC.

26 | WINTER 2021

## Our Announcer: Geordie

He's the King of Rock & Roll, it's our own **Geordie**. Having arrived in Sydney in 1969 as mild mannered **Spencer Tracy**, he immediately found work in his profession as a Painter & Decorator. In the early days, **Geordie** worked at Milson's Point and a number of Sydney's now iconic CBD buildings.

**Geordie** has always been in love with music, especially Rock & Roll. He was about 15 years old when Rock & Roll came in and his favourite Roller was **Bill Haley**, followed closely by **Elvis Presley** and **Little Richard**. In those days, the music medium was still shellac records and in **Geordie's** case, operated at 78 rpm. **Geordie** had a wind-up 78rpm gramophone player! (Editor: This was a cross-over period as vinyl and 45rpm singles were starting to take over)



Photo credit: Jim Parish

## Radio - A start

**Geordie's** first radio experience was with what is now called **Hobart FM** (96.1).

Still working as a Painter & Decorator, but now working in Tasmania, **Geordie** carried a small radio. While working at the **Eastlands** shopping centre, he listened to **John Laws** on 96.1. **Geordie** thought the local community radio station was rubbish and was

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sure he could do better. He submitted a demo tape, but received no response at all. Some months later, **Geordie** made a second demo which was hand delivered to the station. A few days later, on a Friday, he received a phone call at work and was asked whether he could start on Monday. When he asked what time, he was told 4-6. **Geordie** wasn't all that keen on the idea of having to deliver a programme at 4am, but it was a start. However, he was soon informed that he wasn't being asked to get up early. The station was offering him the coveted drive-time slot of 4-6pm! While he was ecstatic, he was now nervous as he didn't have any experience at operating a console. No problems he was told, we will provide a panel operator, you just need to select the music and do the commentary!

In the early days, **Geordie** played his music from his personal collection of vinyl LPs. They were not very practical as far as carrying them in and out of the studio was concerned. During the programme, **Geordie's** panel assistant had to alternatively queue up the track **Geordie** had identified on his playlist. alternately on each of the two turntables, which wasn't straight-forward, as each track had to be queued so that the music would start immediately the turntable was started.

Contact Derwent Valley Community Radio Inc trading as **TYGA FM**:

98.9 FM | [www.tygafm.org.au](http://www.tygafm.org.au) | Tuneln or iHeartRadio app

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[98.9 TYGA FM – Derwent Valley Tasmania](#)

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[tygabytes@tygafm.org.au](mailto:tygabytes@tygafm.org.au)

**Geordie** was once banned from **Hobart FM** for a couple of weeks, for using the word "bastard" when talking to a colleague off-air, but it was picked up by the on-air microphone.

He was with **Hobart FM** for 14 years but was never given a key. One day, he arrived early to prepare his drive programme, only to find that everyone had left early. He couldn't get in to prepare nor to deliver his programme. Fortunately, he knew where an employee lived nearby and was able to go to their home and it was arranged to let him in.

### **TYGA - The early days**

Although **Geordie** was volunteering at **Hobart FM** in the city, he was living in the Derwent Valley. One day he was contacted by our station's founder **Ross Nicholson** and ask whether he could provide assistance in terms of what was required to operate a community radio station. **Geordie** wasn't able to help, as he may well have been a well-known presenter, but he knew little about how to run a radio station. Eventually **Jim Parish** stepped in, to help with that side of getting **TYGA FM** off the ground. **Geordie** was a champion sausage sizzler every weekend to try to raise funds to make the **TYGA FM** vision a reality. If this was the only way to raise the funds, it was going to take forever!! With the assistance of some well-connected people at **Valley Vision**<sup>1</sup> (**Ian Brown** and **Katrina Higgins** come to mind) they helped by writing letters and used their skills of working within the government bureaucracy. They provided advice on how to approach the various government agencies that might be able to help in the endeavour to establish a community radio station here in the valley.

### **The Geordie Touch**

His drive-time Rock & Roll programme is well-known throughout the Valley. Currently playing Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 4-6pm.

**Geordie** always liked **Status Quo** and came up with the rhyming slogan "Go with the Quo" when he started at **TYGA FM**. This became the opening line for his local Rock & Roll show.

**Geordie** is now probably the most well-known **TYGA FM** announcer and has many regular callers.

### **Membership Renewals**

Members are reminded that their subscription for the 2021/2022 financial year will soon be due. You should receive an invoice and our Board asks that you pay your subscription before the end of July. Subscription fees remain at:

\$22 for ordinary members

\$16.50 for concession card holders and children

The board also asks that you consider whether you might be able to add an extra donation amount when renewing your subscription. Only financial members may vote at the TYGAFM Annual General Meeting, which will probably be held late in the third quarter or early fourth quarter.

The following payment methods are available to you:

1. If you can pay via PayPal, go to our website at [tygafm.org.au](http://tygafm.org.au) and choose the **Donations and Subs** menu.
2. Pay in person at the office of **Craig Farrell** MLC, 60 High St, New Norfolk
3. By cheque, payable to **Derwent Valley Community Radio Inc** and mailed to PO Box 377, New Norfolk, Tas, 7140.

**TYGA FM** wishes to thank **Craig Farrell** for making his office facilities available for the collection of donations and subscriptions.

You can become a member, whether or not you present a show. It's a great way to show your support for your local community radio station.

<sup>1</sup> **Valley Vision** was a government initiative, established in 1999 to support economic and social growth in the Derwent Valley.

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## Gazette Sponsorship

**TYGA FM** announcers would be aware that as part of our sponsorship arrangement with the **Derwent Valley Gazette**, one programme promotion is inserted into every **Gazette** edition. Up until now, this has been a fairly random arrangement; **TYGA FM** hasn't been controlling which programme is promoted each week. The **Gazette** has also had only a small number of scripts to choose from. It is your board's intention that we be more active in:

- a) Increasing the selection of programme scripts, and
- b) More closely manage the choice of promotion each week with a view to distribute publicity more evenly

### Derwent Valley Community Radio



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## Gazette Action Plan

We already have copy for announcers **Glen Mazur, Martin Bennett, Ray Hewitt, Geordie, Valerie Costarelli, Colleen Monk** and **John McDevitt**. Unless you wish to change the photo or text, you don't need to do anything. For all other announcers, *if you would like to be part of the rotating publicity of your programme* in the **Gazette**, we need a current (and relevant) photo as well as some text that describes your programme offering. If you don't have a photo and would like to participate, we can arrange for a professional photograph to be taken. If you deliver more than one programme each week, happy for you to provide photos and/or copy for different programmes.

Contact **Doug** on 0402 13 4474 or [tygabytes@tygafm.org.au](mailto:tygabytes@tygafm.org.au) to discuss or provide material. As a guide, the text to accompany your choice of photo can be up to about 45 words or 250 characters. The following is an example of the layout and how you might want to present your programme.

Tune in to Saturday morning's  
**Breakfast with Doug from 6am to 9am.**

Doug provides the weekend weather and information about activities around the valley, as well as easy listening from the 1960s to the naughties.

♪ Start off your weekend on a good note ♪

If you don't want to be in the local paper, that's cool too, just message and we won't chase you up. Otherwise, expect to hear from **Doug** in the near future.

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## Your Board Members

**Bruce Lamb** (President)  
**Craig Farrell** (Vice President)  
**Valerie Costarelli** (Secretary)  
**Steve Nieuwhof** (Treasurer)  
**Roz Chapman** (Station Operations Manager)  
**Peter Sweetlove** (Sponsorship)  
**Doug Smith** (Public Officer)  
**Janet Onn** (Ordinary Member)  
**Russell Alphey** (Ordinary Member)

## Have Your Say

If you have any news you think worthy of inclusion in **TYGAbies**, feel free to contact **Doug** at [tygabytes@tygafm.org.au](mailto:tygabytes@tygafm.org.au) or by mobile on 0402 13 4474.

## Coming Up

Next time **TYGA** at Market .....TBA  
**TYGAbies** Spring Edition ..... Sep 2021

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