

TYGAbytes



E-NEWSLETTER OF DERWENT VALLEY COMMUNITY RADIO INC. 25 | AUTUMN 2021

Our Announcer: Martin Bennett

Martin has a wealth of knowledge about music and movies which he makes use of when broadcasting **Soundscapes** on Friday nights. In this edition, he continues his recent journey of discovery of his family history on King Island.

Martin Bennett

“In the Footsteps of my father Strawb”
Martin Bennett (Part #2)



Wade Roskam, of 100.5 FM, interviewed me regarding why I had chosen to travel to the Island. We put out a call to any listeners that might be able to help me to discover more about my father. You can listen to the interview via:

<https://bit.ly/2N2ueF7>

(<https://www.mixcloud.com/kingislandradio/in-the-footsteps-of-my-father-strawb/>)

On my second-last day on the Island I made some significant inroads regarding my father Strawb (Jim). Walking up to the District School – where my Grandfather, Les, had been Groundsman – I discovered the School Museum. King Island once had a plethora of schools scattered across the island, servicing the families in the communities that emerged from the various “Soldier Settlements” - - that had established themselves. As these communities dwindled the schools closed and their ephemera and photos had ended up here at the School Museum. I faced quite a daunting task: the collection was still in the process of being sorted into any sort of order. There were photos

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and displays on the wall, but a quick scan revealed they were not arranged in chronological order. However, despite this, I was fortunate enough to discover a photo of my father in one of the wall displays, and a Leavers Year poster. I now knew which year my father had completed his schooling, before going on to an apprenticeship at the Bakehouse.

I felt satisfied with my discovery of these rare nuggets from my father’s past and thought it likely this was the most I would discover, but I was wrong. Collected from the Museum I was transported to the house of Mr Wayne Whatley. I was very humbled - and lucky - to have had the opportunity to meet “Whatto”, one of my father’s best mates from high school (and beyond into his sporting exploits). I had managed to catch Whatto just as he was preparing to head to the airport! Along with his personal recollections Whatto shared a photo of himself and my father, side-by-side, with the KI North Football team. Nobody in my family had seen this image before! Whatto told me I look like my father, which - growing up on the NW coast of Tasmania, with my mother’s side of the family, and in my father’s absence - I’d never heard anyone say. (As I met more islanders I was told this many more times. It was odd, but lovely to hear).

Contact Derwent Valley Community Radio Inc trading as TYGA FM:

📻 98.9 FM | 🌐 www.tygafm.org.au | 📱 **TuneIn** or **iHeartRadio** app

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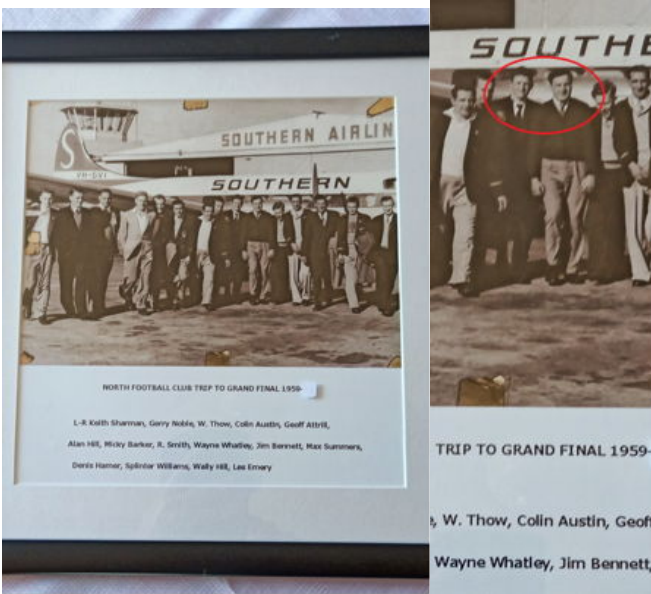
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For **TYGAbytes** enquiries
tygabytes@tygafm.org.au



On my final morning on King Island I was taken to the house where my Grandfather (Les Bennett) had lived when he was groundsman at the nearby District School (Currie, King Island - where the museum I had visited is located) and on to Main Street to a building that had seen better days. At one time accommodation upstairs, while downstairs hosted the bookings office for the very first Tourism business on King Island: a tour business (+bus) = "Top-End Tours" operated by my Uncle: Mick (Headley) Bennett, and his wife Rita.



Grandads House + Uncle Mick's Business



I returned home much buoyed by my experiences, and grateful for the hospitality I had received. I look forward to the opportunity to return some day to this island my father called home. I encourage all Taswegians to take this opportunity to explore King Island, and indeed our other island communities. Help local communities and holiday at home.

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Our New Transmitter

TYGA FM was able to purchase a replacement transmitter for the one we were using at the New Norfolk Golf Club. The combination of the old transmitter and its matched antenna enabled us to initially transmit from the new tower at about 150



watts (150W), about the same as our transmission power from the old site. However, with the new higher location on top of Peppermint Hill and improved line of sight right up the valley, our reception was already better in many locations.

The replacement transmitter was purchased from Edge Radio and as they transmitted at a frequency close to our own 98.9 Mhz, we were also able to bundle their antennas. These were installed 28 December 2020 and we began transmission at about 920W.

Unfortunately, a storm overnight and into the morning of Sat 6th February 2021 took us off-line at about 4am [Editor's note: He was miffed that he missed out on delivering his 6am Breakfast programme!]. The problem turned out to be a small component called a splitter which is situated next to, and feeds, the antennas. Luckily, we were able to fall-back to the old 150W transmitter and antenna combination and were back on air by about 2pm. It took a while to replace the splitter, not least because the day this was first attempted, it turned out that New Norfolk had very strong winds and it was not safe for the technicians to climb the tower. It wasn't until about March 3rd that the technicians were able to make a second and successful attempt at addressing the fault and now **TYGA FM** is running a stronger signal again.

Your Board Members

Bruce Lamb (President)
Craig Farrell (Vice President)
Valerie Costarelli (Secretary)
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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 **TYGAbytes**, feel free to contact **Doug** at tygabytes@tygafm.org.au or by mobile on 0402 13 4474.

Coming Up

Next time **TYGA** at Market TBA
TYGAbytes Winter Edition June 2021

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