TYGAbytes

E-NEWSLETTER OF DERWENT VALLEY COMMUNITY RADIO INC. 30 WINTER 2022

Our Announcer: Nigel Jones

Nigel kindly put together this description of his radio journey for **TYGAbytes**. This edition contains part 1 which should be continued in the Spring 2022 edition.

In the Beginning

My love for radio lead me on a journey that has so far has lasted 44 Years. I started in 1978 doing a country music show on 7CAEFM, I then Joined 7HO as a raw 16-year-old Panel Operator and also co-ordinated racing results on a Saturday. As coordinator, my job was to collate all the results for the late **Peter Sharp**. **Harry Ward** would come and collect them for the TVT6 / TAS TV News (they were housed in the same building). I Interviewed some of the country's biggest country music stars at North Hobart Oval at the 7HO Country Music Jamboree including **Johnny Chester**, **Chad Morgan**, and the late cowboy **Bob Purtell**.

My job was also to keep the station on air if the regular announcer went to the toilet, as it was a long way down the hallway. I remember one shift the announcer ate a dodgy hamburger and his trips to the toilet were many. In those days, music was on a turntable and commercials on a cart. Radio technology has come a long way since the 70's and 80's. I also wrote an entertainment column plus a country music chart for the Tasmanian Mail Magazine, later writing for other publications including the Southern Star and in the last couple of years writing occasionally for the Derwent Valley Gazette.

I eventually left 7HO and went to the other commercial radio station 7HT where I was panel

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Contact Derwent Valley Community Radio Inc trading as TYGA FM:

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

(03) 6261 2888 (general enquiries) | (03) 6261 2000 (studio)

98.9 TYGA FM – Derwent Valley Tasmania

PO Box 377 New Norfolk Tasmania 7140 | 56 High Street, New Norfolk

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

operator/producer of the Saturday Night Party Show, as well as taking calls and handling the horse racing results. I was also an assistant DJ at the 7HT Blue Light Disco at the City Hall which was supervised by Tasmania police.

This was followed by breakfast radio at 7THEFM and Christian Radio 7HFCFM then Coastal FM on the Northwest Coast of Tasmania, and some promotional work for 7BU. Later I returned to 7HT in a promotional marketing role launching Sunkist, a soft drink for Schweppes.

Highlight

One of my biggest highlights was the 1990 Derwent Valley Hop Festival in the main street of New Norfolk. I was the co-ordinator working with **Ray Williams** and the Chamber of Commerce, and having the Prime Minister of Australia **Bob Hawke** and his lovely wife **Hazel Hawke** on stage for the presentation of the Hop Festival Queen and Princess. **Felicity Glover** was crowned Queen and 2-Year-Old **Tamarra Wallis** Princess. It was the largest crowd ever seen at the Hop Festival.

I left 7HT to return to 7HO FM as their Saturday afternoon sports co-ordinator doing live broadcasts of the footy and doing promotional work including the Building Fair, Regatta, Royal Hobart Show and Party Patrol. In 1999, I was appointed co-ordinator of the Collinsvale Show after doing some groundwork announcing at previous shows. The largest crowd they ever had with special guest, the late **Jim Bacon** and his wife **Honey**.

I also spent two years in Victoria, working at HOT FM, a country music station as their afternoon DJ, and 3MA Mildura as well as marketing manager and vice president of the Irymple Football Club.

Back to The Valley

The Derwent Valley is where my love is, my dedication to the respective organizations have been many. I even central umpired an Aussie-rules match at Boyer Oval when the umpire failed to show!

…To be continued…

TYGA on the Move

Your Board is currently engaged in formalizing leasing arrangements at the site of the Law Courts in Circle Street. We expect to finalise these arrangements very soon.

The Board has already been given a tour of the "raw" facilities and there is much activity now required to plan a transition, as smoothly as possible, to the new premises.

Some of the ideas your Board is already trying to include:

- Studio walls sound proofed without eclectic clutter
- Reduce storage of inappropriate items in Studios (e.g. vacuums, general storage)
- Improve visibility between announcer and any guest (reduce objects in line of sight) across the broadcast desk
- Standardize equipment across both studios
- We expected the new studio will have separate rooms for vestibule, kitchen, production (where announcers will access IT facilities), equipment room and with luck a separate storage area for facilities such as cleaning devices and materials.

The building is essentially a number of rooms connected via a single (rather long) U-shaped corridor. The studios will effectively be at the bottom of the U and the kitchen and production facilities toward each top-end of the U. This layout creates new challenges we need to address, such as the distance between the studios and the kitchen and production rooms, meaning we may need to extend monitors and indications such as dead air, telephone, and perhaps even a view of the Raduga screen from these rooms, so on-air announcers know how long they have before they need to be back at the panel.

The Board is interested in hearing your ideas for anything that we could "do better" this time around, in designing the new studios or other facilities. Please raise with a Board member, or better still, write to the editor at tygabytes@tygafm.org.au.

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Library Subcommittee

It was somewhat of a surprise that as a result of communicating options that were being considered in the last issue of **TYGAbytes**, we received a small number of panicked members contacting our former President and the Station Operations Manager. Please be assured that any changes would of course respect existing arrangements. Your board wants to include everybody in the decision-making process - especially regarding future changes - by discussing proposed changes with the membership beforehand. But we don't want panic to set in - we are just floating ideas to get your feedback and ideas.

The committee is still yet to meet to discuss the issues raised.

Revenue Subcommittee

The Board would like to involve **TYGA** members more widely, in activities related to "selling **TYGA**". To this end, we are on the lookout for members who may have a contribution to make in this very important aspect of the operation of our station.

If you would like to offer your services, please contact a Board member or write to secretary@tygafm.org.au.

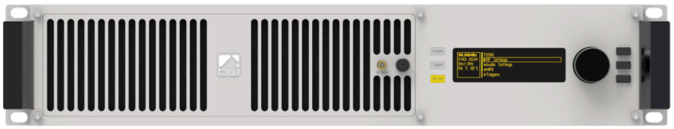
Proposed Constitution Changes

Your Board is working on some significant improvements to our constitution. We hope to have these finalised in the next month or so and propose that a revised constitution will go to a vote of the membership at the next Annual General meeting, later this year.

Transmission Improvements

Since the start of April, **TYGA** has been transmitting at its maximum licensed signal strength of 1000 Watts. Over the course of two days, **Jettech** our contractor who deals with the tower and antennas, and **Jim Parish** and our Station Operations Manager **Roz** together:

- Installed a 4-bay antenna array on the Peppermint Hill tower,
- Installed our new BW Broadcast V3 transmitter.



The manufacturer's expected range for the transmitter is about 60km under good conditions. The Valley doesn't have perfect conditions for direct line of sight transmission, so reception is unsurprisingly affected by local geography.

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Your Board Members

Craig Farrell (President)
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Valerie Costarelli (Secretary)
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Roz Chapman (Station Operations Manager)
Peter Sweetlove (Sponsorship)
Doug Smith (Public Officer)
tygabytes@tygafm.org.au
Russell Alphey (Ordinary Member)
Sylvia Ranson (Ordinary Member)

Have Your Say

If you have any news that 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 Spring Edition ..... September 2022

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