

TYGAbytes



E-NEWSLETTER OF DERWENT VALLEY COMMUNITY RADIO INC.

33 AUTUMN 2023

Our Announcer: Ray Hewitt

I was a casual radio listener from my earliest years, and recall the family sitting in the kitchen during evenings before television in Tasmania, listening to the HMV Little Nipper radio. The 7 p.m. news on the ABC was all-important; there was no chatter allowed from me or my siblings then. Likewise, when the ABC serial "Blue Hills" was broadcast weekday afternoons. My mother, hailing from the country, was an enthusiastic listener.

During the early 1960s, I heard the early hit parades on commercial radio. At that time, my father unearthed a 1948 vintage, bakelite Philips "Radioplayer," which one of his uncles had won in a contest long before. This had the usual AM band, plus Short Wave, so I enjoyed tuning in to far away stations, like Radio Australia, Voice Of America, and the BBC World Service.



During my early teens I was given a dual band transistor radio (AM and Short Wave). I wore that out, particularly on the local, hit parade playing Rick Paterson on 7HT, and John Loughlin on 7HO. Fast forward to 1971 and, one evening when 7HT was off-air, I tuned to 7LA in Launceston. The two

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Announcer: Ray Hewitt	Page 1
TYGA on the Move	Page 2
Blast From The Past	Page 3
Have Your Say	Page 4
Coming Up	Page 4

stations were on similar frequencies. I knew that Brian Coogan, a chap in the Launceston branch of the Government office where I was then employed, did part-time radio announcing on 7LA and, on this evening he came through on my hard-working "tranny." Later, I had the opportunity to sit-in with him in the 7LA studio. The large panel, with numerous switches, knobs and several turntables fanned my interest. In the late 1970s, Brian moved to Hobart and I accompanied him on a few occasions as he presented programmes on 7CAE-FM, Tasmania's first FM station. Ultimately, I co-presented a regular half-hour programme on that station, on behalf of a community organisation I belonged to. When that programme finished, other interests and a new family kept me occupied for many years.

Around the early 2000s, I re-discovered the former 7CAE-FM, by then known as Hobart FM, and a Pommy jock known as The Geordie, whom I listened to on the way home from work. Retirement was on the horizon and I decided to have another go at community radio.

In 2006 I signed up with Hobart FM, and one of their members, Tim Kingston, gave me some basic training. Along the way I also picked up some tips from experienced broadcasters such as Phil Tyson and Ken Short (ex-ABC). My first solo programme

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](https://www.facebook.com/tygafm)

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

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

went to air in February 2007, in the 6 a.m. – 8 a.m. Sunday timeslot. It was easy-listening format with plenty of 60s oldies. It wasn't long before I was joined in the studio by an enthusiastic listener, Richard Rhodes, an American Korean war veteran. We worked very well together for several years, but eventually Richard's wife became seriously ill and he had to leave.

Joining TYGA

In 2009 I became aware of a new radio station, **TYGA FM**, which was starting in New Norfolk. I soon joined and took on the Friday morning timeslot, 6 a.m. – 9 a.m. For many months I presented programmes on both stations. In those days, the-then **TYGA FM** Station Manager “set” the playlists, so presenters had little to do. By 2011, rising at 4.30 a.m. to go on air only four or five times during the entire three-hour breakfast timeslot was becoming tedious. A new Station Manager at **TYGA FM** brought in new thinking. I resigned from Hobart FM, and started two new breakfast programmes on **TYGA FM**; **Friday Sunrise** and **Valley Sunrise**. The latter was effectively a transfer of my Sunday programme from Hobart FM and lengthened by an hour. Both programmes have evolved over the years, with **Friday Sunrise** moving to the 9 a.m. – midday slot in 2016 and being renamed **Friday Mornings with Ray**. The content has changed significantly, especially after 2017 when **Music Unlimited** was introduced to the Sunday line-up from Canada. More attention has since been paid to Australian content in my playlists since, with many new tracks now included from independent artists from various countries.

Valley Sunrise is now one of the longest-running programmes on **TYGA FM** at well over 700 editions broadcast, when the near-identical **Friday Sunrise** are also included. As to the future? Time will tell.

TYGA on the Move

As you can imagine, it is a monumental task to relocate a Radio Station. Our first move from 2 High Street to the New Norfolk High School was straight forward in the fact that the rooms in the

Science Block of the High School were purpose built for us as part of the original construction. To repurpose the Courthouse is a very different story.

After over 2 years of searching for a new location, **TYGA** has finally arrived at our new forever home in the old Court of Petty Sessions building at Circle St, New Norfolk. As for whether we are “settled in” that is another matter altogether! But the greatest journey starts with a single step and we have made several strides already.

After a couple of false starts, the main move took place on Wednesday 28th of December, where major operational equipment was moved from the Kensington Street Studio into the new premises at Circle St. We were operational again by 8pm and the station ran on “automatic” overnight. On Thursday 29th of December at 6am, our lucky announcer **Janet Onn** was the “first announcer to operate from the new studios”.

We operated for a few weeks with the existing electricals from our temporary studio. The new electricals and sub-board were installed on Wednesday 25th January 2023 and we are quietly optimistic that this will be the last time TYGA will need to be off-air for a major part of the day. This time **John McDevitt** had the honour of being the first announcer to operate from the equipment running off the new electrical power.

Roz Chapman (Chair of the Operations and Technical subcommittee) and the technical team including our good friend **Jim Parish** and electrician **David Giles**, put in countless hours to get both these critical phases of the move completed successfully. **David Giles** has nearly completed the new electricals and we expect to have this finished by the end of February

We must also thank the Derwent Valley Council for their patience and understanding during this period, as we managed to fill the court-room area with furniture, computers and cables until the new power supply was in place. Luckily, it all happened at a time when Council meetings were still in recess in the post-Christmas period.

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

 98.9 FM |  www.tygafm.org.au |  Tuneln or  iHeartRadio app

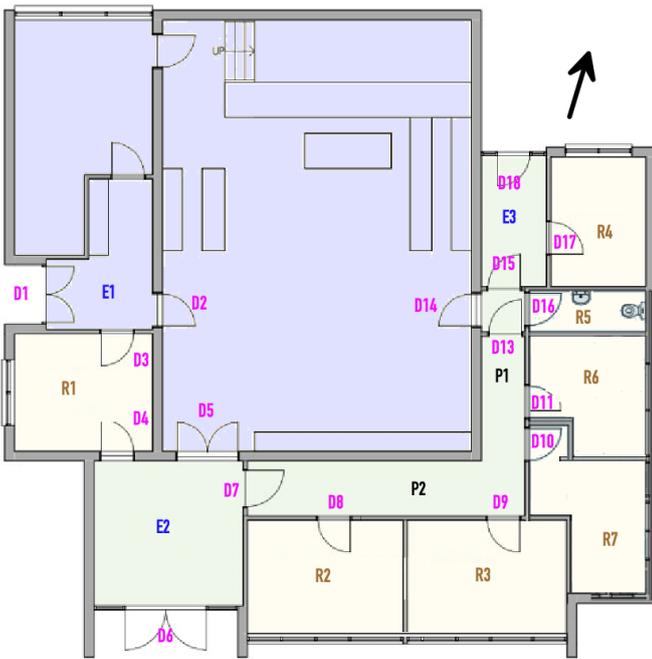
 (03) 6261 2888 (general enquiries) | (03) 6261 2000 (studio)

 [98.9 TYGA FM – Derwent Valley Tasmania](https://www.facebook.com/tygafm)

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

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

Floor Plan



The lilac shaded rooms are not part of the **TYGA** lease and will continue to be under the sole use of the Derwent Valley Council.

The rooms to be used have had to have sound-proofing of windows and doors. Even floors would need to go from linoleum to carpet in order to get studio required noise deadening. Ceilings while visibly fine would have to be modified to avoid roof noise entering studio sound-space.

R1 is the temporary studio and is up and running. It has had its walls painted and floor treatments are down. No work was required on the ceiling of this room.

R4 is the “Rack Room” or equipment room and was the first room to be tackled for painting walls and ceiling and for appropriate floor treatment. The room is still a work in progress and can best be described as organised chaos. The huge bundle of 48 network cables ready to be mounted into the rack to service the temporary and new studios is a most impressive site.

Rooms R2 and R3 are destined to become the new Studios 1 and 2. While R3 is almost completely painted, there has been no progress to date on the ceiling nor the floor. R2 painting has barely started and also has no ceiling nor floor treatments.

Entrance E2 will be shared access areas for both **TYGA** and Council activities.

Passages P1 and P2 are part of the **TYGA** lease and have been painted.

Doors D7 and D13 have had sound-proof doors fitted and RFID tags have been installed on these doors as well as our two outside entrances to maintain security.

R4 has been fitted with steel shelving, courtesy of **Chris Ranson**, and is our new storeroom. This new storeroom is like a TARDIS and has managed to absorb all our “possessions” that were previously spread throughout the lease area!

Looking Forward

We are all very excited about the potential of this wonderful new home with nearly 4 times the space we had at our old location at the high school.

R5 will at some point be completely renovated and turned into the main unisex toilet.

Once this is done R7 is perfectly located to be our kitchen, or “members lounge” by any other name. This area is more tightly under our control (due to its position) off passages P1 and P2 which will only be accessible by **TYGA** members.

Work will commence on the new studios sometime in March. We still need to install air-conditioning and carpet before the main work begins in the new studios. Very exciting times for **TYGA FM** – watch this space.

Blast From The Past

A script for a radio station advertisement for seat belts (which were not standard on cars in those days)

"It will save your life, but even if you don't save your life, you'll avoid permanent injury."

Thank you **Ray Hewitt** for this “byte”.

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](https://www.facebook.com/tygafm)

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

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

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 Winter Edition June 2023

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](https://www.facebook.com/98.9TYGAFM)

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

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