

New Presenter: Peter Thomas



Peter has spent a considerable proportion of his working life in radio and television. It began at 2AY Albury, when it was part of the AWA Network of eight stations around Australia. He worked at 3NE Wangaratta when it was locally owned, graduated to 3AW in the days when they proudly called in relay stations to join the key station in Victoria for the Macquarie Broadcasting Network.

He has spent time with FOX-FM before it changed its audience demographic and has even had some experience with the ABC. He has also worked in television during the golden years beginning at BCV 8 Bendigo and Central Victoria as a booth announcer, children's show host and newsreader. He presented "Around Midnight" on TEN Network for three seasons and also founded and was Managing Director of Albert Street Productions Pty Ltd, a television production company that produced documentary material for SBS and ABC and had considerable international sales to networks around the world.

Peter is very happy to be a part of the Golden Days family.

ADVENTURE IN THE NORTH by David Pollock

Adventure in the North But Few Takers was the headline on an article in The Melbourne *Herald* on Tuesday, 27 March, 1962. It told of a difficulty the 167-strong Northern Territory Police was experiencing in recruiting Members, of the good salaries, the paid overtime, the free uniforms, accommodation, the six weeks annual leave and the first class airfare home. There was the opportunity for rapid promotion and for working in remote locations, at one of the 23 one-man stations across the Territory.

I was near finishing my apprenticeship as a printer in Belgrave, it sounded a great opportunity. Then the first of the hurdles: I had to be 21 so a wait of 18 months, then I was underweight, then put on a waiting list before finally commencing an eight-week recruit school in Darwin on 28 February, 1966. I was Dux of the school but immediately moved to Alice Springs to work.

It was 15 months later I began a series of relieving duties, three months at a time, at one-man stations across the Territory. First it was Maranboy, 48 km south of Katherine and 19km into the bush, the station in what was an AIM Hospital in the tin mining days of the region. As well as the local Constable Officer-in-Charge of Police I was the Postmaster, the Mail Contractor and telephonist, operating a three-subscriber manual exchange open four hours a day!

Then it was Larrimah, here I was involved with the recovery of six young Victorians killed in a plane crash followed by Elliott, on the Stuart Highway midway between Alice Springs and Darwin, before returning to Alice Springs. A month later it was Finke, when the Ghan operated through the region followed by five months at Kulgera, on the Stuart Highway just north of the South Australia border. That police district extended past Ayer's Rock and The Olgas right to the Western Australia border, in fact the Finke and Kulgera Police Districts combined were bigger than Victoria.

One the eve of three months at Anthony Lagoon, on the Barkly Tablelands, in July, 1969, I sat for my Sergeant Third Class exams which I passed. At Anthony Lagoon I had the pleasure to meet the Duke and Duchess of Kent while they made an overnight stop at Brunette Downs cattle station.

Then on my 27th birthday I was made a Sergeant 3/c, a rank I held until leaving the Force in October 1974 when elected the Member for Macdonnell in the first Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory. The following election Neville Perkins stood in this predominantly aboriginal electorate ending my short career in the Assembly.

A prolific letter writer, I wrote home to my folks at least weekly, sometimes more often; my mother keeping all my letters, chronologically in a box she later gave me. They along with my notes, my official notebooks and a good memory I used to write and self-publish a 300 page hard-cover book "Outback in Uniform".

I left the NT in November, 1980 taking up a position as General Secretary of the Tobacco Growers of Victoria Ltd, at Myrtleford, the start of a 30-plus year career in agricultural organisation administration through citrus growing, wool brokers, livestock agents and livestock saleyards until retiring in October 2012.

Golden Days now provides me with not just an interest to take up some of my time, but provides a great satisfaction to present to its listeners a variety of music they obviously appreciate by their calls and comments as well as giving me a general ability to contribute to the organisation.

MEMBERSHIP GOES GOLD!

July will herald the launch of our brand new "Membership Rewards" program that is designed to confirm to you how much we appreciate your loyal support.

All fully paid up members from 1st July will receive a brand new membership card and holder that you can wear to any of our special occasions.

Other benefits you will enjoy exclusively as a member include:

Discounts from a growing range of businesses

Preferred pricing for members for memorabilia and functions

Years of membership formally recognised with the issue of a special badge

Members only events

Quarterly functions with guest speakers

New members will be able to request one piece of music that will be played for them during a designated program yet to be decided.

All members will also be asked to provide the following two important pieces of information.

Firstly we will ask you to nominate five of your favourite pieces of music. This information will prove invaluable to us in ensuring that the service Golden Days provides through its unique mix of music, remains relevant. The second is to urge you to provide us with your email address. This comes down to two crucial matters. To begin with it enables us to communicate with you in a much more timely way than is possible at present.

Secondly, with your explicit approval, we can send you news bulletins and other information electronically saving Golden Days the increasing costs associated with printing and distribution while at the same time being just a little friendlier to the environment.

We hope you will approve of these added advantages we bring with our new rewards program and that you will tell your friends and encourage them both to listen and to become members of the Golden Days family.

As an added incentive to you, **if you succeed in bringing new members to Golden Days, we will give you a 10% discount on your next year's fee for each new member.** That means that if you bring us 10 new members you get a full year's membership at no cost to you.

Dudley Chamberlain



Above Ian McLeod showing an enthusiastic group the operation of our studio.



Above: Larry showing our guests our extensive music library – the biggest collection of nostalgia in Australia.

Notes from the library

We really are lucky here at Golden Days Radio to have such a wonderful range of music in our library containing favourites like Crosby and Sinatra, right through to good old rock 'n' roll, with all sorts in between.

A few statistics first: In music we hold about 4,000 CDs with some 65,000 individual tracks. The book library has close to 400 books – biographies plus books and magazines on many genres of music.

Now, I did really want to write you a list of the marvellous music we hold, but thought this newsletter might not be big enough to fit them all... so I have tried to summarize just a few highlights.

The time span of our recordings begins around the turn of the 20th century where we find Dame Nellie Melba and Scott Joplin in 1901, move forward a little to Peter Dawson and Sir Harry Lauder in 1912, and right through to the artists of today such as David Hobson, Susan Boyle and Denis Walter.

Musicals are a very popular genre at GDR; so where do we start? Perhaps at A for "Annie" through to Z for "Zorba" and just about everything in between.

The 1920s and 30s are well represented with their characteristic jaunty tones, and on into the beloved 40s and its war-time songs. Then come the 50s, epitomised by the explosion onto the scene of Elvis Presley, and alongside him, perennial favourites like The Four Lads, Frankie Laine and Perry Como.

The 1960s, "Swinging Sixties" they called it, the decade of the baby boomers. We couldn't go past The Beatles, Cilla Black and Dusty Springfield as representative of those wild times of freedom.

From the flower power of the 70s, we find Don McLean, Carly Simon plus our own Olivia Newton-John and Little River Band... maybe a touch of disco with Donna Summer and The Bee Gees. We even dip a toe into the 80s, the decade that fashion forgot - with Enya, Marcia Hines and Air Supply.

In the classical section, we have the romance of Strauss, the excitement of Tchaikovsky, and the lilting melodies of operetta - something to please the most discerning listeners.

The only qualification we make for inclusion in our library is that the music must "fall kindly on the ear". You'll not find any head-banging, techno rock or discord at Golden Days Radio.

Had enough reading yet? Not a problem, just turn on your radio to hear our range for yourself and you'll find all those treasures we couldn't possibly fit into this article. And remember, if you do have any books on music or CDs you no longer want, I'll always find a spot on the library shelves for them!

Gwen Puche, Librarian



The Golden Broadcaster

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Message from the President :-



At recent general meetings reference has been made to the requirement for Golden Days Radio to submit a new set of Rules of Association under the requirements of the Consumer Affairs Victoria "Associations Reform Act 2012".

Your Committee of Management, with the assistance of its Strategic Planning Sub-Committee, has completed the proposed new format of those Rules of Association, facilitated by the decision to accept, in large part, the "model rules" made available by Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Having completed the necessary work, it was decided that the most appropriate manner in which members can consider the proposed document is to have it tabled as a singular item at a Special General Meeting, which your Committee of Management has resolved to call on Friday 21st June 2013.

The resolution to be considered at the meeting is quite straightforward – and detailed in full in the meeting notice enclosed with this newsletter.

You are urged to attend the important special general meeting. If you are unable to do so, your proxy will enable your vote to be counted – via the attached authority.

In addition to the above, work is also proceeding with our participation in this year's Seniors Festival which starts a day earlier this year. The announcement of the Victorian Senior of the Year will be held at Government House on Thursday 3rd October.

Golden Days will again be a media partner and will have a stand at Federation Square on Sunday 6th October and at the Melbourne Town Hall (festival hub) from Monday 7th to Friday 11th October. This festival is now in its 31st year so mark these dates in your diary and we hope to see you in Melbourne during that time.

Larry James

Email Corner

Golden Days Radio

From: Alan Pickering
Sent: Wednesday, 21 November 2012 7:09 PM
To: mail@goldendaysradio.com
Subject: Petula Clark Birthday
8.10am 21st November 2012

Hello Darlings at GOLDEN DAYS,
I am speaking to you from a stormy and cold North of England, Burnley in Lancashire.
Do you know PETULA CLARK is 80 this month? Please play one of her lovely songs 'KISS ME GOODBYE' for me and your listeners.
We have absolutely nothing like your marvelous station here in the United Kingdom, except for a couple of hours on a Sunday if we are lucky with Elaine Page playing Show Tunes.
Thanking you across the Oceans from Alan and Michelle Pickering
(Age 73)

Darwin Defenders

On behalf of the Melbourne Committee we wish to thank you so much again for your station's support in promoting our 71st Annual Commemoration Service at the Shrine of Remembrance for the bombings of Darwin.

This date, 19th February, has now been classified a day of national significance and we would look to your support again in 2014.

Kind regards

Robyn Bell

Vice President

Darwin Defenders 1942-1945 Inc

Mid Year Luncheon

Our ever popular mid year luncheon will be held at The Bentleigh Club, Yawla Street Bentleigh on Wednesday 19th June from 12 noon. Bookings are now open. Entertainment will be provided by the Lah- Di- Dahs singing group.

From the Station Manager's Desk. . . .

Once again we find ourselves almost half way through another year. To date, this has been a very busy year for all of us at Golden Days Radio.

Our three studios are providing listeners with quality broadcasts 24/7.

The engineering team at Golden Days Radio do a fantastic job keeping us on air and are proactive in their attention to equipment maintenance.

There continues to be large increases in the number of people listening to GDR "on line" (the internet). In March 2011 there was an average of 1,060 people listening weekly, in March this year that figure had grown to 4,800. This continues to be a significant growth area for us.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their ongoing efforts. GDR is a wonderful example of how volunteerism works at it's very best

Alex Hehr