



THE GOLDEN BROADCASTER

December 2021

Newsletter of Golden Days Radio
for Senior Citizens Inc.

Registered in Victoria No A.0025759L ABN 29 845 875 007



PATRON:
Peter Smith OAM



FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND

Bert Newton and I became friends through a mutual love of radio. We grew up in the forties with the world slowly starting to recover from the horrors of World War II.

They were the days when youngsters like Bert, myself, Philip Brady and Mike Walsh, sat at home looking up at the dim light

coming from the radio on the mantle-piece. We were literally "watching" locally produced dramas like Blue Hills, The Search For The Golden Boomerang, Superman and When A Girl Marries.

It was truly theatre of the imagination, brought to life in overseas shows like the well remembered BBC series Take It From Here, Much Binding In The Marsh and later The Goon Show. Bert grew up in awe of such radio greats as Jack Davey, Bob Dyer, Norman Banks and Norman Swain. Barely in his mid-teens his talent was obvious and could not be denied.



His first work in front of the microphone was at 3XY in a studio situated in an area behind the dress circle at Melbourne's Princess Theatre. How ironic that in his later years, Bert would star on that very stage in the Broadway hit musicals "Beauty And The Beast" and "The Producers".

With his popularity in the rise Bert recorded for the then prominent Melbourne label W&G Records, under the direction of famed producer and entrepreneur Ron Tudor. The pair became life-long friends.

In 1957 television called and Bert began a stellar career beginning with the hosting role on HSV-7's "The Late Show". Not long after he was lured to GTV9 starring in his own right as a daytime host but then moving to nights where he began teaming with Balaclava's favourite son Graham Kennedy.

In hosting television's night of nights, the Logies for a record number of years, GTV9 became his television home. Yet he also featured in variety on ABC-TV and in later years hosted the long running channel 10 program "Good Morning Australia."

Although the achievements of Bert Newton have been well documented, sadly everyone gets forgotten eventually, but it will be a long, long time before we forget one of the most enduring entertainers Australia has ever produced.

Bert's presence on radio, television and on the stage spanned almost seventy years, much of which I had the pleasure to call him my friend.

Now, whenever we turn to either medium, for entertainment I know his spirit will be watching on from the wings.

Peter Smith, December 2021



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To our wonderful team of volunteers, together with our amazing radio audience, I extend Seasons Greetings and wish you all a safe and happy New Year.

Despite a series of stop/start lockdowns, GDR continues at full steam ahead.

However, during this period of uncertainty, many of you may have experienced the grief and loss of a loved one.

We are always saddened to receive news of one of our listeners passing. As Christmas approaches, we need to reflect in acknowledging these moments of pain and sorrow as part of the healing and recovery process.

There have been many other challenges during the year in terms of 'keeping us on the air '! Despite a significant decline in cash flow, we have managed to upgrade and replace much of our antiquated equipment and computers, all vital to our ongoing transmission.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge and personally congratulate our 10 year recipient awards.

Carol Farman, Carmel Bolt, Barry Gomm and Dr Mark Cherny

And what a delight to welcome the following volunteers as Honorary Life Members.

Graeme McKenzie, Graham Pack, Robert Anderson, Keith Irvine OAM

The above awards are for contributions over and above expectation and for exceptional support of GDR.

I would also like to thank a number of our indirect sponsors, who provide us with wonderful support. The Melbourne Racing Club, Channel 9 radio news and our local councils in particular.

It's going to take Vision, Determination and Grit to ensure the future of Golden Days Radio.

I am so proud to be working with such a dedicated Committee of Management who will continue to guide us through turbulent times and at the same time insisting on Peace and Harmony as we move forward.

Sincerely

Ian McLeod

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our next AGM will be held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 (held over from 2021 due to lockdowns). Venue is the Uniting Church Hall in Centre Road Bentleigh (opposite the RSL) and commencement time is 10am.

Golden Days Radio For Senior Citizens Inc

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GOLDEN DAYS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2021

Our singing superstars! Our VIP support team! And Golden Days legends!

Congratulations to all our volunteers receiving 10 year certificates and Honorary Life certificates
– collectively over 100 years of volunteering.



MID-YEAR LUNCHEON
Our mid-year luncheon will be held on
Wednesday 15th June 2022 at a venue
to be confirmed.





Like all Community Broadcasters, Golden Days Radio rely on volunteers to carry out a diverse number of skills that are required to operate a Radio Station. The obvious ones are Presenters and their Receptionists but include all the administrative volunteers in the fields of finance, program support e.g., rostering of staff and program material. Some of our volunteers come from a background in Broadcasting but the majority need to be trained in the required skills

The Committee of Management acknowledges the most valuable asset that the Station has is its Volunteers. During July, this year Halina Kay extracted the hours worked from the sign on book. The hours worked in one week totalled 350. During Covid-19 the Station transmission hours were reduced by two hours a day to comply with the restrictions.

The 350 hours performed by our Volunteers were costed at a minimum of \$30 per hour, \$10,500 per week, or about \$550,000 per year. These figures just indicate a basic costing, in reality to pay on an hourly rate for skills of our volunteers which could easily be doubled for this amount. GDR could not afford to pay for these services.

This of course only includes hours at the station. Many of our volunteers particularly presenters would spend a similar time at home with program preparation.

The Committee of Management recognises that our member's time is valuable and are very grateful for their contribution keeping our Station on air.

EMAIL CORNER

The songs keep getting better and better! RAMESH the best DJ for a Saturday in Melbourne! – Cheers, Annie in McKinnon.

Good afternoon. What a delight to tune in this afternoon and hear Prudence. Just as restrictions eased your weather turned. My thoughts go out to all those Victorian's affected by yesterday's storms. Thank you Prudence for the wonderful music. – From your favourite Tasmanian listener, Michelle

Beautiful music as always Maureen I wouldn't miss Magic moments for the world!!! – Pdraig from Ballarat.

Top show Barry and Tim.....Love to hear Jerry Lee Lewis with "Cold Cold Heart" Thanks for your trouble. – Cheers, Peter of Hawthorn.

Hi Geoff, Kelly from Clayton South here. Thank you for giving us a great show to dance along too.

Hi 3GDR. Just loving the musical sections in the programme today. It really is a night for the musicals. Two of my all time favourite musicals South Pacific There is Nothing Like a Dame and Calamity Jane Black Hills of Dakota back to back. Can it get any better? – Best Regards, Peter and Linda Trevor, Hawthorn East (cloudy Collingwood end)

The Boomtown Rats may well not "Like Mondays" but I certainly do. Your show kicks off the week with a unique brand of music that can't be heard on any other station. Today was no exception. Just loved Johnny Cash with "Ghost Riders in the Sky." – Barry of Brighton.

Thank you Mario, you're simply the best!! Enjoying every moment of your program. – Best regards, Sal Trantino.

Thank you, dear Joan, for the wonderful variety of GDR music tonight and as always - choice selections! I absolutely loved Another Suitcase with the fabulous Scottish vocalist, Barbara Dickson/Lloyd Weber. Much appreciation to you and Ian for holding the fort superbly and bringing much joy. – Mary @ South Oakleigh

*From: Michael Steele via email.
Subject: Avid listener living in Lake Tahoe*

I used to listen to GRD when it first started broadcasting in the mid 90s. At that time I lived on Hudson Street right across the street from the Caulfield Race Course where you were transmitting. I always enjoyed listening to your station albeit its limited transmission availability times.

Now I am in California and for some reason I looked up GDR and lo and behold you not only had a website but also streaming capability. Your format has changed considerably since its beginnings when it focused on songs from the 30s-50s.

I have only one suggestion. Every hour you seem to interrupt a song in the middle to announce the time on the hour. Perhaps, you could just give the time closest to the hour preceding or following the playing of a song?

Nonetheless, I listen to you every day, even in my car. All the best to everyone at GDR and keep up the great work. Sadly, many of your original listeners have passed away but I imagine they would still like your new format. – God bless, Michael Steele



30TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

The 24th of July saw a big milestone in our history as we achieved our 30th birthday. To mark this special occasion, we had a "Who Am I" competition with 7 prizes of \$100 Coles vouchers provided by a generous donor. Various clues were given out throughout the week and listeners were encouraged to ring in with their answer. It was a great success.

The winners were announced on Friday by Ken Vosper and Saturday by Loretta Simmons.

Presenters were also encouraged to have their own competition during their program where we had CDs and DVDs available for prizes, again donated by a generous donor. We had balloons and a cake on the Saturday but due to lockdowns we only had the bare minimum in the studios.

Here's to the next 30 years!



Loretta and the comp box.



Balloon boys at GDR – Ian and Larry



Peter Clemmens in the studio



Balloon girls Sandra Luxa and Shirley Pascoe



Ian with Carol Farman celebrating our 30th birthday



FROM THE STATION MANAGER

Well, we are finally out of lockdown and how wonderful that is.

The station is back to normal with interviews being recorded together with new promos however we still must be careful. Early next year we will re-start studio tours and of course talks to groups should be able to also re-start.

Our volunteers have done a magnificent job in keeping the station on air and making our listening audience "happy".

Sadly, we said good-bye to Monday brekkie presenter Kerin Greenwood who has retired and will be travelling to Japan with his wife. We thank Kerin for his contribution and wish them both the best for the future.

We have our Christmas get-together at the Bentleigh Club in early December and this will be the first time for 2 years. We are all looking forward to this occasion when we can catch up with everyone.

Thank you to all our members and community groups who have renewed their membership with many providing a donation. This is simply wonderful and helps the station enormously when the bills keep coming in.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Larry James



SPONSORS

We sincerely thank GDR95.7fm sponsors for their continuing support throughout the year. We encourage everyone to use our sponsors where possible and always tell them where you heard about them. Should you know of a business that may benefit from a GDR sponsor partnership, please contact us on 9572 1466 or email: sponsorship@goldendaysradio.com



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