



THE GOLDEN BROADCASTER

Newsletter of Golden Days Radio

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

2026



PATRON:
Peter Smith OAM

From the President

In 1950, singers Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, Edith Piaf and guitarist Les Paul turned 35. They were born in 1925, over a 100 years ago. In 1970 Elvis, Luciano Pavarotti, Johnny Mathis and Herb Alpert turned 35. Moving forward to July 24 this year, GDR 95.7fm will have been broadcasting for 35 glorious years. To reflect on this achievement, Loretta Simmons OAM, one of our longest serving presenters, has delved into the history of our station and shares with us the early story and growth of Golden Days Radio.

Thank you to all our volunteers and devoted listeners for sharing this journey as we continue to reach out to the wider community with friendship and music. As President, I feel well supported by our volunteers. So, it is with gratitude that I thank our strong management committee, keen presenter and receptionist teams, and the many exceptional people working behind the scenes who keep this wonderful music station broadcasting to the world, 24 hours a day. Long may we continue.

Carol Farman



From the Station Manager

One of the things that I enjoy in retirement is keeping busy. Golden Days certainly helps with that. In fact, going to the station on a number of days during the week is a real pleasure. We have a great team of volunteers working in many areas to keep the station on-air. Well done everyone. Of course, running a station is not cheap even when you don't have paid staff but rely on volunteers. Did you know that we have 75 volunteers (male 47 and female 28) that run the station? Did you also know that to open our front door to business daily costs us \$438-00 per day. This takes into account rental of premises, power, insurance, copyright fees, telephone and IT, maintenance. That's over \$122,000 per year. That's why we need memberships, sponsorships, bequests and donations. It never stops. Don't forget that when you buy something from a sponsor, tell them that you heard their message on GDR. It really helps. Happy listening!

Larry James

YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/@GoldenDaysRadio95.7>

From the Hon. Secretary

Over recent months the Committee of Management has been undertaking a review of our Strategic Plan. It is a thoroughly worthwhile exercise to ensure our plans for the future are viable in our 2026 and beyond outlook, and that we have the financial security to keep Golden Days Radio broadcasting with confidence and commitment to our listeners. Soon on our website will be our Community Report that comes from these strategic deliberations. It is a simple-to-read document that gives prospective sponsors, donors and interested parties a snapshot of who we are and what we stand for in the community radio environment. Look out for it on our YouTube channel as well!



In addition to the strategic planning, the Committee has been working closely with Engineering and IT to upgrade our computers throughout the station to Windows 11. This initiative has been completed and all systems are GO.

Robyn Giles



Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday August 19 at 10am at the Uniting Church Hall, 497 Centre Road, Bentleigh.

All are welcome.

OB Vanners

Congratulations to the Outside Broadcast (OB) team and their tremendous care and use of our OB Van. Not only is this vehicle our backup station broadcaster, it also serves as a mobile publicity unit for all the great work done at Golden Days Radio. It is gratifying to know that many people who stop by for a chat are longtime listeners. This community connection is very special to us.

Pete Clemmens says goodbye to Sundays



After many years presenting the Sunday 12 – 3pm program, Pete has decided to focus his energies on his Tuesday show. Thanks Pete and keep the hits coming!

Craig Ferguson says hello

Taking over the time slot on Sunday will be Craig Ferguson. Craig is a consummate pro in the studio and a highly valued member of the reception team. Take it away, Craig.





35th ANNIVERSARY 1991 – 2026
“WHAT’S ON THE WIRELESS?”
100 Years of Glorious Entertainment and News
– that’s what!

The magic of the “Bakelite Box” began with the ‘*golden era*’ of broadcasting between the two world wars. It was referred to as “wireless” until WW1 when military preference for *radio* caught on to describe the revolutionary receptacle of sound. The word radio is derived from radius, Latin for “spoke of a wheel” as transmitted sounds travel out in all directions from a centre hub like the spokes of a wheel. Today, Golden Days Radio 95.7fm transmits in all directions throughout Australia and worldwide. In July 2020 we signed with iHeartRADIO to stream our broadcasts around the world.

Wireless was part of the furniture in our homes, the focal point of entertainment for the whole family. Programming involved great variety. Dance, Brass and Military Bands, Radio Plays, Light Classical and Operatic Arias, Jazz, Comedy – the excitement of Bradman’s Cricket ‘live’ from Lords or Headingly – commentators using creativity and ingenuity! You not only listened to it – you could actually see it in your mind as the action happened – we describe wireless as “the Theatre of the Mind”.

By the 1980s Contemporary Music and Talk Back predominated. There wasn’t a great deal for the older members of the community by way of a pleasant mix of nostalgic popular music and radio entertainment. Dom Iacono of Italian origins and Colwyn Williams, a member of the State Executive of the RSL – both of whom had a love of wireless – had an idea of creating a radio station for the Over 50s, especially for the Senior Citizens.

In 1990 Dom registered an “Expression of Interest for a “Special Interest Licence”. A public meeting was called on the 24th July 1991 of interested citizens held at the Bentleigh RSL Melbourne. The name “Golden Days Radio for Senior Citizens” was decided. A Test Public Broadcast Licence was issued in 1993. Golden Days Radio would be a volunteer community-based radio, non-sectarian and non-party political. There would be no paid staff and not male dominated. Music would be drawn from the “Golden Era” of the 20s 30s and 40s with the expectation that as time went by, we could “add to our repertoire but not take away”!

Suitable premises were located at Caulfield Racecourse and the MRC were agreeable for a broadcast studio to be established and the transmitter be located on top of the new Rupert Clarke Stand. GDR transmitters remain there to this day. Broadcasts were limited to 2 days per week, then 3, then 4 and we shared the air-waves with Monash University Student Radio. In July 2001, a full-time broadcasting licence was issued. After fifteen years GDR relocated to Glen Huntly and largely due to outstanding work of our volunteers, a functional state-of-the-art radio broadcasting complex was established.

A tapestry of music is threaded throughout GDR programming spanning a century and longer. From Beethoven to Beatles, Elgar to Elvis and Elton and Disney to the ‘Duke’. Over thirty presenters bringing music from their own collection or selecting from GDR’s vast library collection of every musical genre.

Commemorative programs include Easter, ANZAC, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Much loved composers and performers of yesteryear from the Music Hall and the Movies to the Concert Hall. Music from timeless films *Gone With The Wind*, *The Wizard Of Oz*, both 1939 are still enjoyed by young and old today. Great British Dance Bands to American Swing Era, cool Jazz and Neapolitan romantic crooners and French Café accordions, the glitz of Andrei Rieu and his magical Johann Strauss Orchestra. John Williams, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, great orchestras and vocalists...we’ve got it all to share with you.

Our radio station may be the “Theatre of the Mind” for you. A broadcaster still serving our community after thirty-five years as we move through the generations without losing the uniqueness of our identity.

Thank you for your very valued support and friendship over the years. Our appreciation is beyond measure. Hopefully we may continue to...SAY IT WITH MUSIC.

Loretta N. Simmons OAM
Presenter & GDR Member #378

Trent Davidson has made Tuesday nights his own from 6 – 10pm. He brings a great selection of tracks for your listening pleasure. Tune in to Trent every Tuesday for more of the best from GDR.



Worldwide listenership

No matter what time of the day or night, listeners from all over the world ring in or send a message to say how much they enjoy our music.



Cruising up the North Sea to Iceland and loving your music.
-Ian and Claire B

Thank you for the 'hip' music being played this afternoon, which is really generating a welcome swinging mood on what is a windy afternoon in good old Melbourne town.
-Nicolai I

Hi, I find Golden Days Radio wonderful company. I love the presenters and the music. I admire the fact that you all volunteer your time to present something so special. Thank you all.
-Jan from Glen Iris

Beautiful music to work to - thank you!
-Graham from Vancouver, Canada

I thoroughly enjoy the programs and the beautiful music that is played every day. Thank you for brightening my day!
-Ingrid from Caulfield South

Just stumbled across your website this morning and decided to tune in online. Loving it!
-Rob K from Berwick

I just wanted to thank you all for the great job day in and day out. I listen in my car and when I am working at home. I love the banter, the informed musical commentary and the positive difference GDR makes to so many people's lives. Thank you and keep up the great work!
-Colin P from Westbury, Nth Tasmania (GDR member)

Thank you for today's fabulous music, loving every minute!
-Barb from Cairns QLD

Hi, it's 4:35am. I've been awake since 2:50am and have been listening to your wonderful selection of music. Thank you for keeping me company. Keep up the good work.
-Best regards, Sandra F

Hi there, just wanted to let you know how much I love listening to Golden Days Radio. So grateful for the presenters' knowledge of music. Golden Days Radio improves my mood, motivation, and makes life magic. Thank you for the amazing music you play (makes my cooking taste extra good!)
-Alice from Cheltenham



GDR Christmas Cheer



Mary, Halina & Jack



Carmel, Maureen & Peter



Joan & Brian



Loretta, Diane & Olga



The Hot Flushes



Valerie & Carol



Robert & Sandra



Maryann & Dee

It motivates me to be a volunteer at the radio station when I know I am giving my time to help others. I am on the phones when people ring to tell us that they are listening and they are really glad that we are there. They may leave a request to be played later on the radio. This makes them happy and in turn makes me happy.

– Carmel Bolt, Volunteer Services Manager



Keith & Murray

Time to celebrate!



Ian celebrating Carol's 15 years



Madeleine Swain - Life Membership



Ken + 2 Johns = 15 years apiece



Brian & Therese



Paul, Sue, Chris, Lucille & Carmel



A very chatty Table 9



Sara, Ken & Ian - our two new ambassadors



Barbara & Carol



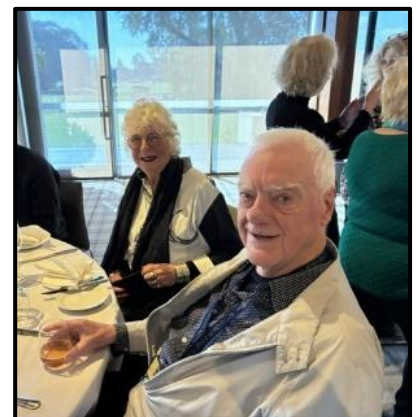
Patron Pete Smith OAM draws the raffle



Graeme & Jenny



Ian, Johanna & Ruediger



Jan & Kerin

The Golden Days Radio mid-year luncheon was held in the magnificent clubhouse of the Huntingdale Golf Course. The cuisine was excellent, the selection of wine, beer and soft drinks catered to everyone's taste and the view of such a world class course was breathtaking. This venue has become a favourite of GDR and we hope to see you there for our Christmas Luncheon - Wednesday 2nd December. Stay tuned for details.

GDR is about community through music!

"I joined GDR because I had something to share...and I was encouraged to."

— Marilyn Martyn



Dee & Geoff with their 'Woodchester' awards



2026 GDR Volunteers' Forum held at Caulfield Sth BC



Prudence at the Christmas get-together



Murray, Joan, Christine & Mark for Uncle Joe



Halina enjoying GDR at the Ryooanji Temple, Japan



Loretta with Dr Mandy McKenzie



Uncle Joe's Barber Shop team. Big thanks to Kate O'Brien on Production and Peter Thomas for the concept, direction and script.



Ian with Glen Eira Mayor Anne Marie Cade



Lucille Crisp epitomising the GDR connection

Tribute

Recently we lost one of our most kindred spirits. Duncan Cameron was a great contributor to Golden Days Radio and his work in the engineering area was invaluable. Duncan did some fine work for us in managing our website and helping out in so many different areas during his tenure at the station. Duncan was particularly active in managing our OB Van. He had a keen insight into the importance of the OB Van as not only a promotional asset, but more importantly as our backup studio to keep us on the air in times should the main studios ever be down.

A plaque will be installed in the van that reads,

"In memory of Duncan Cameron, our OB Team Leader."

April 2026



Station Sponsorship



Volunteering for GDR brings us friendship, purpose and a creative outlet. So, while we engage in one or more of the many activities that keeps us on-air, we fulfill our need to be valued members of a vibrant and important community radio station. Even though we are not motivated by monetary reward, it's a hard reality that we cannot exist without funds.

Most of our funds come from sponsorship. When we volunteered for the role of Marketing Team, we had no idea of what we were doing but ignorance is never a reason to fear a challenge especially when we knew we would be well supported by Carol, Rob and Larry as our Management Team and Christian as our Treasurer.

We have a core group of long-standing sponsors whose contracts with GDR provide the backbone of our funds. But this alone is not sufficient. In our search for potential new sponsors we have focused on finding products and services that reflect who we think is our listening audience. Getting older means more than retirement homes, medical services and funeral plans. It also means going to the theatre, travel and finding the best dog food. When we try to sell GDR to a potential sponsor, we've learned that our most convincing attribute is the loyalty of our listeners. This allows us to present ourselves as an advertising opportunity to an audience that is invested in GDR. We have also learned that potential sponsors are highly motivated by reaching that demographic ranging from the newly retired to the not-yet-nursing home. This group is seen as being post-mortgage and post-childrearing and finally having money to spend.

Of course, our best-selling point to a potential sponsor is the quality of our programs and community engagement. Without you, we would have nothing to offer.

Murray Raine & Neil Ray



Murray & Neil with Loretta Simmons OAM



Golden Days Radio

03 9572 1466 SMS 0447 096 472 mail@goldendaysradio.com web goldendaysradio.com
1st Floor, 1236 Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly, Victoria 3163