



Radio Eastern FM 98.1 Newsletter – Autumn 2022

Introducing our New President – Andrew Conway

At the November 2021 Annual General Meeting, there were a number of personnel changes to the Committee of Management (COM). There was a changing of the guard with a new President, Andrew Conway, taking over from Keith Jessup who has stepped down to take on a committee role and will continue to devote his time to the Station.

We would like to thank Keith for the many years he held this position and congratulate him on the great work he did over that time. He worked tirelessly on the major task of our licence renewal application. We thank you Keith for the great job and legacy you have passed on to Andrew.

I would like to now introduce you to our new President.

President's Report – Andrew Conway



Welcome to 2022! We have started the year with energy, enthusiasm, positivity and a clear sense of direction. I would like to begin by thanking all of our hard working Presenters, Station workers and technicians who

contribute countless hours to support our Station. Your work over the past two years, in particular, has been extraordinary.

The COM has developed an overarching work plan that will guide our approach through 2022. This includes a focus on the following areas:

- Improving our volunteer engagement.
- Empowering our team to manage their respective areas.
- Building stronger community engagement.
- Streamlining and simplifying our operations.
- Ensuring we have good involvement in the modernisation program.

We often say that the best thing about Radio Eastern is the variety; whilst that is important, I believe the best thing about our Station is the people who make it happen! To this end, we are keen to throw the doors open and welcome new Presenters and volunteers.

We have scheduled social get-togethers throughout 2022 and our first activity, held on Sunday 13 February, provided a great opportunity for a cuppa and chat. Why not invite a friend along to learn more about the Station and meet our great team? All are welcome.

Our future gatherings will be held on Sunday 15 May, 11 September and 11 December 2022.

Community radio is great fun and we look forward to fostering that sense of enjoyment and can hopefully welcome new people to our great Station!

Vale - Rick Robison (1944-2022)



Born in Armadale, Victoria, Rick attended Ormond East Primary School and McKinnon High School. An only child, he grew up in Carnegie and barracked for Hawthorn.

After leaving school, Rick worked as a bank clerk, a Supply Manager at Repco Clutch for 18 years and John Wiley & Sons until his retirement.

Rick met his future wife, Gail, a receptionist at his work; they later married in 1968. They had three children (Debbie, Jay and Melinda), plus an abundance of pets over the years. The family often went camping at Warburton and enjoyed their walks and cooking marshmallows. He also enjoyed building things, including a sandpit, cubby house, fernery, decking and pergola for the family.

Rick was a Scout Master of the 13th Caulfield Troops for a number of years. With seven scouts and one other Scout Master, they built a raft and went along the Murray River from Cobram to Echuca. This was a terrific time and lots of pranks were played.

Rick was involved in the 13/30 Church and loved to welcome everyone as they came in to worship. He also volunteered with the Lions Club for a time, one of the best BBQ sausage cooks around!

Rick was a prankster who wore a very scary old man's mask at times and his pretend vomit and poop brought him much pleasure. He was a very charismatic, friendly person and was always ready for a joke or punchline. Rick had a great friendship with Kevin Carr which started back in 1957.

They both lived in Carnegie and met at the local milk bar after school. When they were older, they attended all the dances and would meet up with friends at the local hamburger shop to talk about the dances. Rick loved music and as a young teenager played the drums. He was in a band called the 'Merlins' and played at many dances. Pete Watson played bass with them, but he went on to become part of MPD Ltd.

Kevin and Rick lost contact for a number of years and, fortunately, met up again at a party. Kevin enticed Rick to join Radio Eastern as his phone person; subsequently Rick trained to become a Presenter. Rick really enjoyed the comradery with Kevin and the team, and also loved hearing from his loyal sponsors and listeners. Having a sales background, he did a fabulous job as Sales Sponsor Administrator.

Rick had the ability to attract people with his outgoing, friendly personality and was a popular Presenter with Radio Eastern. His work with sponsors was outstanding and his efforts were appreciated by many. We will all continue to have a laugh at the funny things Rick has done. Thanks for the memories Rick.

Vale - Ray Lawrence (1944-2021)



Ray grew up with his mother and grandmother in St Kilda. He commenced his radio career at the age of 16 joining 3XY as a music arranger. His natural radio skills were quickly recognised and he was soon put on air as a news reader.

Ray had more than a natural broadcasting voice. He also understood the distinctiveness of radio and its need to produce pictures via the 'theatre' of the mind. From his teenage years, Ray always admired the 3AW style. Never one to copy, he always learnt from the older radio masters, i.e. Norman Banks, Geoff Manion and, particularly, John Masters. He became a highly versatile performer on Beautiful Music 3AK, 3MP and his favourite 3AW.

In the early sixties, Ray was involved in a car accident that left him in hospital for 12 months while his leg healed and eventually returned to his beloved radio programs.

He was sacked from 3MP because his voice was too good and the station was changing their format to talk back. He retired from commercial radio to care for his mother when she was diagnosed with Alzheimers.

He continued his love for radio by joining Southern Radio, Golden Days Radio and Radio Eastern FM98.1 all at the same time as a volunteer. He decided he could only do one

job and stayed at Radio Eastern for the next 26 years. During those years, he served as President for 10 years.

Over a 20-year period, he was a member of various Freemason teams. He travelled to many places all around the State and loved the ceremony involved in all these activities.

Ray has interviewed many famous people over the years with his first being June Bronhill. She expressed that she was very nervous before it started because it was the first interview she had ever done. Ray told her, don't worry it's my first interview too. They laughed and it went well.

Ray's health began to deteriorate in 2010 after a fall off a stage and his leg gave him trouble. In 2015/16 after many doctors and specialist visits, it was determined that his leg would have to be amputated. He recovered well from the surgery and rehab and resumed his programs on Radio Eastern very quickly.

In September 2019, Ray contracted pneumonia which turned sepsis. After nine weeks in hospital he returned home. Rehab became very difficult due to COVID, but he returned to his programs as soon as possible.

Ray loved his weekly Wednesday sessions with Peter Philp (his longtime friend) and Roy Hampson. He also loved his monthly program with Ralphe Rickman, a longtime friend and associate, who sent his program down from Queensland and had it edited by Roger Broadbent.

Ray has been a great contributor to Radio Eastern over many years and his presence will be sadly missed. Thank you for the wonderful programs prepared for your listeners which were always popular.

Vale - Margaret Rimmer (1940-2022)



It is with great sadness that we record the loss of one of our lovely volunteers, Margaret Rimmer.

Margaret was a volunteer at Radio Eastern for around 12 years, being a lovely voice on the phone, helping, listening and talking with

you – our listeners.

Margaret first worked with Brian Amos and then Rex Shields, and also helped out with administrative tasks as well.

You will also have heard Margaret on air with Rex, who finally managed to convince her to join him to play her choice of music; she took to it like a duck to water.

Margaret was a delight to be around – friendly and happy, with a wicked sense of humour; she will be missed.

Farewells

Norma

It is with regret we say goodbye to Norma who has left Radio Eastern to continue her valuable community engagement work which is so important to her. Loved by many listeners and staff, Norma will be a very busy lady supporting people and the community she loves.

Patrick

Patrick has also been an important member of the Radio Eastern team. Patrick worked as Norma's phone person and was popular with our listeners.

We wish both Norma and Patrick all the best for the future and hope they enjoy the challenges and achievements they will come across in their passion for helping others.

Roger Broadbent

Roger has changed his working status with Radio Eastern and will no longer be presenting on air. Luckily for us, he will continue working behind the scenes at the Station.

Sandra and Jonathan Liew

Sandra and Jonathan have relocated to China due to work commitments for at least 12 months. Sandra was a popular Presenter with her Oriental mix and Friday breakfast and will be missed by many listeners.

Jonathan also played an important role on the Committee of Management as a member of the Finance Group. We will certainly miss them both and wish them a safe stay and look forward to their return in, hopefully, 12 months.

Greg Wilson

Greg played a very significant role in preparing the Station's 2021 licence renewal application. He worked tirelessly for many months gaining information required for the submission to enable the Station to be re-accredited and continue on air. Thank you Greg for all the hard work you put into this long and tedious job, the end result being our new accreditation to operate.

New Marquee Sponsorship

Rick Robison was instrumental in obtaining sponsorship for a new marquee to be used for Outside Broadcasts. Signage on the marquee has been completed and the marquee will be available for future broadcasts. We sincerely thank the **Australian Lions Foundation, Lions Clubs of Croydon-Mooroolbark, Nunawading and Rowville** for their support in this venture. It is through Rick's efforts that we now have this fabulous marquee for our outside broadcasts.

Outside Broadcast at Eastfield Park, South Croydon

Radio Eastern recently attended its first Outside Broadcast since COVID at the Melbourne Highland Games in Eastfield Park, South Croydon.

The well attended event was a great marketing opportunity for the Station.

Our new mobile microphone was very popular, enabling us to roam the park putting interviews directly to air.



Jodie and Tony

Thank you to all staff that assisted with multiple tasks on the day – Tricia, Tony, Jodie, Julia, Murray, Geoff, Robert and Keith.



Trish

New Presenters

Sam Berry and Dave Zammit co-present "Melbourne Sounds" on Mondays, 10.00 pm-midnight. This program promotes Melbourne's live music scene and is aimed at a younger audience. They play 100% Melbourne music, with the latest releases, details of weekend gigs, phone and in-studio interviews, plus occasional live performances. Their program commenced in December 2021 and the pair have already built up a strong following. Their Facebook page also promotes their show, which now attracts many younger listeners to the Station.

Nora Lynch has also recently been accredited. Born in Ireland, Nora has a passion for Irish music and will bring another specialised music program to the Station. You can hear Nora on alternate Saturdays as she now shares the 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm timeslot with David Wood.

Stephen Spicer and Geoff Mason will be sharing the Thursday afternoon 2.00-4.00 pm program "A Musical Kaleidoscope". Geoff will also be part of the teams presenting the lunch spot and "Just Jazz" program from 7.00-9.00 pm on Friday evenings.

New Trainee Presenter

We also have a Trainee Presenter nearly ready to hit the airwaves. Please make Graeme Godkin very welcome when he commences shortly.

Radio Eastern

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 Keith Jessup
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 Lorraine Banks
 Jodie Sposito

 Lyn Woods
 Julie Zammit
 Murray Smith
 Everett Hargreaves
 Greg Maggs
 Keith Jessup
 TBA
 Tony Kenyon

Talent Search 2021/22

The Grand Final held on 27 March 2022 had eight monthly winners participating, together with 12 of the most popular entries from this current season, vying for the \$1500 First Prize, plus another \$500 for Second Prize.

Whilst we are disappointed that the Bendigo Bank has decided not to continue with the sponsorship of the *Talent Search*, we commend their vision and willingness to develop the concept and fund the competition website, as well as the prize money. Over four seasons they committed around \$48,000, which Radio Eastern and all the entrants truly appreciated. The *Talent Search* program was unique and recognised in the CBAA Annual Community Radio Awards in 2020 as **Runner-Up in the Best Initiative in Australian Music Award**.

Radio Eastern will continue to provide airplay and interview opportunities for local artists on Sunday mornings, 10.00 am-12 noon, on *Australian Made* from April onwards.

Grand Final Winner - Kaiyah Mercedes

Kaiyah is a 15 year old up-and-coming singer/songwriter based in Melbourne whose lyrics are written with poetic influence which focus on storytelling and emotions.

During lockdown in 2020, Kaiyah taught herself guitar and piano, and started putting lyrics to music. She describes songwriting as a form of therapy and a way of understanding emotions and feelings in a creative way. Kaiyah tries to put into words feelings that can sometimes be unexplainable and also draws inspiration from fiction. Kaiyah's debut single **After Summer Ends** is out now on all streaming platforms.

Grand Final Runner Up – S-K-8

A 16 year old Sri Lankan musician from Dandenong, Krisigen, who calls himself S-K-8, had a passion for music from day one. He recently introduced his music to the public and has been pursuing music as a hobby for two years. He is a Melbourne High student who plays guitar and drums and records his music at home with friends. He believes he has the talent and dedication to succeed in becoming a noteworthy artist and is hoping for support from all people listening.



L-R: David Green (Bendigo Bank), Winner Kaiyah Mercedes, Runner-Up Krisigen (S-K-8) and Murray Smith

Community Groups – Everett Hargreaves

Many of you may be unaware that Radio Eastern can provide guest speakers to attend meetings of community groups in our area to talk about Radio Eastern and its history. The talks also cover how Radio Eastern can work with your group to help you gain members and promote any activity that you are planning. The talks are usually undertaken by Presenters Lyn Woods or Everett Hargreaves.

If you are a member of such a group and would be interested in a guest speaker for one of your meetings, you can leave a message for Everett at the Radio Station on 9722 9981. He will return your call and make the necessary arrangements.

Membership and Promotions – Everett Hargreaves

Radio Eastern currently has 398 members with 17 joining since the last Newsletter. Welcome to these new members. Our members are a vital part of our organisation and your support enables us to continue to provide good music and information to our local community.

If you know of anyone who listens to Radio Eastern, but is not a member, why not encourage them to join? Memberships are available from \$10 per year for students and \$30 per year for concession card holders and retirees.