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## Find Us -

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[www.2rph.org.au](http://www.2rph.org.au)

**Enjoy!**

## 2022 Sydney Disability Expo

Over the first weekend of August, nearly 4000 people descended on Homebush, not for the football or a concert, but to attend the 2022 Sydney Disability Expo.

Always a fabulous opportunity to engage with current listeners and potential partners, this year the Expo highlighted the importance of the service organisations such as 2RPH provide.

2RPH relies on the efforts of nearly 200 volunteers to stay on air and with a remit to serve and support our community. The past two years have emphasised radio reading services' important role in offering our audience a vital window to the world.

As well as the opportunity to meet with our audience it is always fascinating to take a walk around and see the remarkable innovation in the sector. Make sure to stay tuned to 2RPH for interviews with some of the innovators whose services and products were showcased at the expo.





7 different cities and regions, including Newcastle.



As we focus on improving accessibility to our studios and broadcast opportunities, it was great to speak to many potential volunteers as well as our listeners to find out how their needs have evolved over the past few years, as well as the many shows they rely on.

We're already looking forward to Disability Expo 2023!



All images by Keith McCarron.



## 2022: a year for broadening our horizons

Barry Melville, General Manager, Radio 2RPH

Next year we will celebrate Radio 2RPH's fortieth anniversary as a licensed radio service. After 5 years of test transmissions, in February 1983 Radio 2RPH started broadcasting in earnest from the University of NSW campus with a low-power signal and sharing a site with Australia's first educational radio service, 2UV.

of 2SM and a spare studio, was soon broadcasting 51 hours a week of its radio reading service for Sydney listeners.

Flash forward across four decades and we have the much-loved Radio 2RPH of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – an innovative, not-for-profit provider of radio reading services using AM, FM and digital platforms, reaching listeners across greater Sydney and since 2008 in Newcastle and the Lower Hunter and since March this year, Wollongong and the Illawarra.

This month marks my first year as the General Manager, and I can tell you that having a growing base of more than 180 skilled volunteers committed to providing high quality live readings and pre-recorded content-rich audio, is only just the start of what makes 2RPH a wonderful place to work. It is the opportunity to serve and enrich the lives of our listening community who access print media through audio delivery, that motivates me, as it does our dedicated and hardworking Board and staff.

The standout milestone for 2022 has been the launch in March of the extension of our broadcast coverage to Wollongong and the Illawarra which means that 2RPH broadcasts can now potentially reach 76% of the NSW population. We have invested heavily in a continuous 24/7 transmission facility for Wollongong, and we went ahead in April and upgraded all three studios by installing digital consoles to provide high-end audio production and delivery capabilities.

In early August we launched the 2RPH *Broadening Horizons* fundraising appeal which we are still midway through, and we are asking for donations to support further improvements in our radio reading technical capacities, further skills development and training for on-air volunteers and to support making our premises more accessible for those with disability.

Government funding has somewhat alarmingly diminished over the past 2 years. As I said when launching our fundraiser, although we are 40% funded by government grants, it is generous support from donors, our listening community, volunteers and corporate partners, that will enable us to continue to broaden horizons.

I invite you to make a tax deductible donation to help us move forward into our 40<sup>th</sup> year and help us stay the course into the next phase of our station's development into new localised coverage. Meanwhile please continue to tune in and enjoy our rich array of daily readings via 1224AM, 100.5FM and DAB+ (digital) in Sydney, 100.5Fm in Newcastle/Lower Hunter and 93.3FM in Wollongong/Illawarra. We are also available via web streaming from wherever you may be.

To listen to the audio version of our Broadening Horizons fundraising appeal [click here](#).

## Minister for Charities meets with the sector



Andrew Leigh, in his role as Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, has shown his dedication to the not-for-profit (NFP) sector by holding a series of town hall events.

The 'Building Community' roundtables were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth in late August.

The recently appointed Minister accused the previous government of neglecting the sector and said,

"In the new Australian Government, charities have a true partner. Labor respects the role of charities, and wants to empower them to help the community. We will continue to work collaboratively with charities to reconnect Australia."

services, homelessness charities and youth organisations, join Senator Leigh in a conversation about how the charity sector can be reformed. The broad ranging conversation covered the opportunity volunteering and charities can offer to individuals as well as the need to reform funding and legislation.

Whilst it is only the start of the conversation, it was a positive start with the Minister showing his depth of knowledge by taking a wide range of questions from the floor and offering an opportunity for many smaller charitable organisations to provide feedback as to the daily struggles they face.

## Meet the volunteers: Stephen Christian

Regular readers will know we make a bit of a fuss about our volunteers with good reason. Without the nearly 200 volunteers we wouldn't be able to get all our broadcasts to air.

However, it's not just the on-air volunteers that keep things ticking along. John Martin spoke to Stephen Christian for Signals recently to find out what goes on behind the scenes.

Originally applying to be a reader he was asked if instead, he could help out with rostering. Despite his nerves about learning how to use new computer systems and a variety of spreadsheets containing details such as reader preferences for shows, days, and times, Stephen has been a vital member of the rostering team for almost 10 years.

When asked to describe what it is the tightknit team do, he says, "we keep the station running smoothly. We make sure everybody is there that should be, filling vacancies as required. As well as maintaining the roster, the team maintain the volunteer database, keeping track of their preferred days and shifts and when they're not available. So the primary role of rostering is to fill vacancies."

At any given time, the rostering team look after approximately 100 readers and announcers. For Stephen, the importance that 2RPH plays in the lives of our audience has provided the impetus to keep volunteering over the years, noting that he has "met a few listeners at various occasions and it highlights the service we provide for those that would otherwise struggle to be able to connect to the rest of the world."

Unfortunately, for us here at 2RPH, Stephen is leaving the station shortly after 10 years of service to return to his home town of Adelaide.

From all of us at 2RPH we wish Stephen an enjoyable second retirement with his family in Adelaide.

If you are interested in volunteering with 2RPH or finding out more, please visit our website: <https://www.2rph.org.au/how-to-help/become-a-volunteer>



## Community Broadcast Association Awards Finalists

Regular listeners to Radio 2RPH will be aware of the dedication of many of our volunteers. Without the support of almost 200 individuals the station wouldn't be able to continue broadcasting its daily newspaper readings nor our magazine shows or daily book readings.

Firstly, congratulations to Natalie Shea as a finalist in the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award. Unfortunately, we were only allowed one nomination in any category because 2RPH could easily have nominated several candidates. Natalie's dedication goes beyond her on-air involvement and she is involved behind the scenes on a number of committees.

Secondly, congratulations to presenter Vivian Schenker and producer John Berry for being finalists in the Excellence in Innovative Programming and Content category. Their show Inclusive Agenda highlights agenda setters and those working in disability policy and the impact they have on their sector.

Finally, our technical team of Peter Worthington and Marty Peplow who provide hours of support to our volunteers as well as maintaining our broadcast services across AM, FM, DAB+, online and across the Illawarra, Lower Hunter and Greater Sydney regions

The winners will be announced at the CBAA conference in Cairns on October 29th.

## 2RPH on the hunt for new directors

2RPH is a community radio station broadcasting to those living with a print disability, or who are unable to access published material. We are seeking to appoint two new non-Executive Directors. We are keen to appoint those who have experience of living with a print disability, people with experience in community broadcasting and people with experience in fundraising by not-for-profit organisations.

2RPH broadcasts 24 hours a day from Glebe across Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong. The radio reading service provides listeners with access to a variety of published material covering a wide range of topics. These readings are broadcast on 1224AM in Sydney, 100.5FM in Sydney and Newcastle and 93.3 in Wollongong, as well as digitally in Sydney, with selected programs available as a podcast and others available for 24-hour access.

Meeting in Sydney on a bi-monthly basis, our Board and small management team is collegiate and operates in an environment of teamwork and enthusiasm to provide programs that are varied, informative and entertaining. Our directors are highly effective and driven by a strong set of ethical values and a clear vision to form valuable collaborative partnerships. (See: [www.2rph.org.au/about/our-people](http://www.2rph.org.au/about/our-people))

If you have the skills and an interest in joining the 2RPH Board then please contact either:

- 2RPH Chair: John Martin at [jmartin@2rph.org.au](mailto:jmartin@2rph.org.au) (mobile 0412 497262) or
- 2RPH Deputy Chair and Secretary: Geraldine Menere on [gmenere@2rph.org.au](mailto:gmenere@2rph.org.au) (mobile 0403 262 829).

To view the job description, [click here](#).

Closing date for nominations is 23 September 2022.



Handy Helpers for Everyday Challenges



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