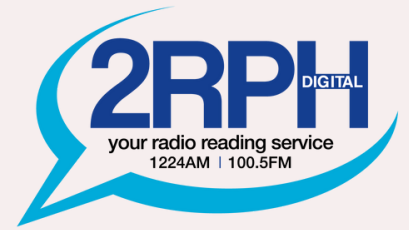


AUGUST 2021

SIGNALS



FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO LISTEN!



DEFYING THE LIMITS OF LOCKDOWN

2RPH is sponsoring a key session at the Arts Activated Conference this year, moderated by Hanna Cormick (above). We spoke to panelist Adam Bannister (below left) about Building Back Better "One Year On" - and the changing face of inclusivity.

Adam Bannister is travelling at warp speed into a future where inclusivity is delivered through a seamless interface that doesn't require venues, passwords, or even 3 mouse clicks to access. "Innovation isn't in flashing lights and loud speakers, it's in streamlining

the shared experience", he says, speaking like a man who has had ten coffees before lunchtime.

An events industry veteran who spent 15 years delivering innovative technical solutions across the UK and Europe, Bannister is looking forward to the 2RPH sponsored "One Year On" session moderated by Hanna Cormick (Hanna delivers the What's On for the 2RPH Activated Arts podcast presented by Anthea Williams).

Having no personal experience of lived disability, he says it's the demand from the arts community which has pushed innovation in his own event technology consultancy and production management company, Pyrus.



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Vale Jonathon Coleman

For over 40 years
Jonathan Coleman was
one of the funniest and
friendliest voices on radio,
including 2RPH.



"Jono" - an unforgettable 2RPH Ambassador

In some ways we've never needed him more. Who can forget the ad "Jono" made for the ABC's Not Today Show? His *Question-Cancelling* headphones for politicians promised to turn even the noisiest journalist into "a quiet Australian" and were guaranteed never to go out of style.

Coleman died aged 65 on Friday July 9th in Sydney surrounded by his family. He has been mourned all over Australia but in particular by our 2RPH community.

In 2013, while he and his long-time comedy partner Ian "Dano" Rogerson were volunteering as Ambassadors at 2RPH, Jono conducted some wonderful interviews for the station with other luminaries such as Ita Buttrose, as part of the fund-raising drive which accompanied the station's 30th Birthday celebrations. Almost ten years later, these recordings still bubble with Jono's infectious good will, his quick wit and agile humour.

Coleman's humanitarian spirit was recognised with an OAM awarded in 2015 for his service to broadcast media and his work with 2RPH, the School for the Deaf and Blind, the Schizophrenia Research Institute, Carers' Australia and the Movember Foundation.

He got his start in Australian television in 1979 on Simon Townsend's *Wonder World*. He met "Dano" in the early days at Triple J where the pair achieved cult status presenting *Off The Record* which quickly led

to a contract with Triple M in 1984. Their night time Show went straight to Number 1. Subsequently, Coleman moved back to England, where he was born, for 16 years and worked for BBC London, Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Radio and Heart 106.2. He returned to Australia in 2006 to be near his 81-year-old mother, Sylvia, in Sydney, partnering with presenter Julia Zemiro to present The Jonathan Coleman Experience on WSFM. He also released a comedy album, Jonathan Coleman's Polka Project, narrated children's TV show The Koala Brothers and appeared in the film *Young Einstein*.

Most recently, Jono was a presenter on Studio 10 on Network 10 and worked with longtime Triple J friend Jon Vidler on community radio's Northside Radio 99.3FM which was close to his home. He won three Gold Sony Radio Academy Awards, an NTL Award for Broadcaster of the Year in the UK, and a New York Radio award for Best International Radio Show.

Those who knew him at the station, and legions of fans and industry colleagues have remembered him as a generous and genuinely kind person who not only donated time and energy to community organisations such as 2RPH, but thoroughly enjoyed doing it. The station promos he and Jono made for 2RPH still sparkle.

Coleman will be missed by all who loved listening to him. He made great radio.

Defying The Limits



"One Year On" panellists Esther Hannaford, Ricky Buchanan and Lillie Jade

*access isn't
about bells
and whistles*

"We'll never be able to include absolutely everyone" he adds, "but so many barriers have dropped, we are really in the Wild West phase of event management."

A substantive shift, pushed along by COVID-19, has meant that access is no longer about the venue, or the collateral. "All those banners and t-shirts were environmentally unsustainable anyway," he points out.

"It's the tech community that's driving change and creating the frameworks that define what is achievable in these shared spaces."

Bannister says Ricky Buchanan, one of his co-panellists on "One Year On" session, "made me realise that if you are neuro-diverse or have sensory processing issues then bells and whistles are a nightmare. Access isn't about throwing everything at it. As a result, he says, "my aim is to give the

audience the choice to tailor their experience in as minimalist a way as possible. Which means everything comes out of one studio, and the audience can dip between Aslan with caption, live captions or just watch the full screen content."

Bannister says that one of the main challenges for regional Australia and small arts organisations has always been price point. "So I've had to find ways to make inclusive streaming affordable," he says. "And that in turn is bringing it into the mainstream."

Digital poverty could be the last barrier to come down. "People who can't afford a mobile phone or an NBN connection could be left behind."

But that, he reminds us, is the beauty of a media hub like 2RPH. "You can still buy a radio for next to nothing!"

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Sponsor Spotlight

Each month we feature one of our loyal 2RPH sponsors



Program Spotlight

Activated Arts

presented by Anthea Williams



"When I was growing up, my Dad always had a clock radio in his dressing gown pocket which he'd listen to every morning," recalls 2RPH presenter Anthea Williams (pictured right). "I'm not sure if that's partly why, but I've always been more interested in oral storytelling. That's how I like to consume books and news and current affairs. I prefer to hear them. My partner reads to me almost every evening."

The listening community of 2RPH would concur. Clearly a woman after our own hearts, Williams is currently holed up in New Zealand with her elderly parents. Conducting her multidisciplinary work as an artist with collaborators around the globe via zoom and email, she is more proof if we needed it that COVID-19 has pushed accessibility into the mainstream.

"The pandemic has really unmasked the Great Lie that's been perpetuated since the industrial

with Rheumatoid Arthritis since she was a baby. Now that it's her turn to be a carer she says she makes a point of including her 82 year-old father who has Alzheimer's in zoom meetings if he comes into the room to find out what she is doing.

"He's part of my life," she says simply.

Inclusion it turns out isn't just something for people living with visible disabilities.

"I was very disappointed the Adelaide festival wasn't available on-line this year," she points out, "not just for people living with disability but for so many others, like parents with very young children and people facing economic and geographic barriers. They were excluded from everything the festival had to offer. It really made me think about who we are inviting into our public spaces and who we are not."

After a career distinguished by extensive periods in theatre and cabaret where the spoken word reigns, Williams has embraced both cinema (she was recently funded by Create NSW to develop a feature after the success of her short film *Safety Net*), and the universe of podcasting with her monthly Activated Arts program on 2RPH. Twenty years ago, when disability was still veiled in secrecy, and there was little funding to support inclusion, a program that is focused on artists living with disability talking to each other about their work, might have been deemed a pipe dream.

"What's interesting to me," she says, "is that I will never run out of guests to have on the show. Since we started in September 2020, I've only had one who didn't identify as an artist with a disability."



Two actors in Anthea Williams' short film *Safety Net*

revolution," she observes. "It's the idea that our personal and professional lives can be separated; that parents don't have jobs, and people with jobs don't have children. Those who live with disability, who are always early adopters, were pushing for the right to work from home long before this and we were always told it wasn't really possible. Then along came Covid and within weeks the work force had to pivot and employers had to concede their staff are just as productive." Williams has lived

Program Spotlight - Activated Arts

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And when it comes to audience? Diversity she says is where it's at.

"Everyone is moving in that direction. The streaming platforms have an appetite for content that means talent is being hoovered up from every medium – books become musicals, become television and podcast series. I was thrilled to see that Leah Purcell's *The Drover's Wife*, which I worked on as dramaturg at Belvoir Street before it was developed into a film, is being screened on the International Film Festival circuit."

Despite COVID-19, Anthea is hoping to get from Christchurch to the Melbourne International Film Festival in August to participate in the Accelerator program.

"Even in terms of media consumption, we used to be defined by geography and artists were siloed into specialities. Now that content is streamed online it can attract viewers from different niches and countries across the globe."

Anyone who has fallen in love with a story character who comes from a completely different culture or happens to have a disability will agree.

"Storytelling is so much richer when it's diverse."

You can subscribe to Activated Arts and other 2RPH podcasts via our podcast partners.



Our Audio-Books business is blooming

The COVID-19 restrictions have done little to slow the progress of our new business venture, the 2RPH Audio-Books Services. After working with a panel of the Board in July, the Head of the project, Maria Issaris, will make a presentation to the August board meeting to outline the next stage as relationships with key publishing and marketing partners come into play.

The Small Press Network, which has near 200 members, Vision Australia and the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) have all expressed an interest in helping promote and market our products.

With two new book projects well underway, the trial phase has produced 4 books so far. The team has developed a system to upload to the Amazon-owned Audible platform, and narrated over 300,000 words, representing the work of over 100 writers, using 6 narrators and 3 audio engineers.

"It's the knock-on effect of positive outcomes for so many sectors of our community that makes this such an exciting venture," says Maria. "I'm impressed with the 2RPH Board's commitment to such an innovative project. It's the spirit our community needs in these uncertain times."



From the Chair

"2RPH's 38 years of broadcasting has seen many changes and developments: new listeners, programs and presenters have been at the forefront of expanding the appeal and reach of what 2RPH has to offer. What hasn't changed has been the continuous and remarkable support from 2RPH members and volunteers who have kept the station running - through thick and thin." Di Collins



SANCHA Out And About

I am often invited to speak about 2RPH at service organisations such as Probus and it is always a pleasure.

Just before the most recent lockdown I gave a presentation to about 60 members of the Cremorne Probus Club at the Mosman Art Gallery. The speaker coordinator Olivia Johnson is also one of our presenters at 2RPH. Questions regarding voice activated devices and trends in the media demonstrated the keen minds of the retiree audience. If you or your group would like a presentation I would be delighted to oblige - sdonald@2rph.org.au Sancha

New General Manager

Our current General Manager, Sancha Donald, has been with 2RPH for almost five demanding years. Recently she indicated that she would like to leave 2RPH at the end of September pending her successor's appointment. Sancha will be greatly missed. Working very closely with the 2RPH Board she has been highly successful in positioning 2RPH for its next stage of growth, introducing new programs, and expanding our reach into the disability sector.

The General Manager's role has been advertised in key publications, social media and on the 2RPH website. If you are a keen enthusiast of community radio who understands the importance of volunteers, please look up the full job description on the 2RPH website or contact our HR consultant Liz Moore on lmoore@2rph.org.au

New Premises

In a recent survey our volunteers told us what they want as we search for new more accessible premises: a central and convenient address; easy access to public transport and adequate car parking. An inner-city location around 250-300 sq metres would be ideal. If you know of such premises then please contact John Martin on jmartin@2rph.org.au

New Directors

As 2RPH's broadcasts will cover 82% of the NSW population by 2022, the Board is looking to recruit two additional directors. We need people who appreciate community broadcasting; who may have a visual impairment; or are women with an interest in diversity. Board meetings are held bi-monthly with sub-committees meeting in the alternate months.

We're a very collegiate group that welcomes discussion, new ideas and the commitment to help devise and deliver the strategy, good governance and decisions with the interests of our listeners in mind. 2RPH Board Directors are honorary positions and are not remunerated.

If you're interested in joining us as a volunteer director please see details on the 2RPH website and contact dcollins@2rph.org.au or the Secretary to the Board gmenere@2rph.org.au

