

We The People
Program 178
Radiothon 2015



Good day to you. I have a great admiration for the early inventors who harnessed the power of sound and in particular the spoken word. This preoccupation with the power of sound has haunted me for most of my life as I marveled at the pure genius of Marconi, Bell and Edison. Before they put their creative inventive minds to work there was nothing in the way of radios, telephones or phonographs. Just think about that.....nothing existed and that's only 100 years ago . As this is an important week for radio 4CRB I thought I might indulge in a little reflection about radio broadcasting and the value it has brought to society in terms of entertainment and news. Today we have so many choices about how to stay in touch and how to be entertained but sadly one is not sitting around the radio as a family, listening to radio concerts, serials or the news. I think that is a loss to the family unit just as we no longer do the washing up together. Its these little routines that held and formed the fabric of society and did much to instill responsibility and family unity.

As a kid I remember listening to many radio serials including Superman with Leonard Teal, Biggles, Tarzan, Night Beat, Hop Harrigan and of course the timeless Dad and Dave. **Insert.** Remember Gough Whitlam's speech on radio on the steps of Parliament house and the lasting effect it was to have on Australia. **Insert.** Milestones like the declaration of War by the Prime Minister Robert Menzies. **Insert.** Sound was and is part of our lives and radio made the world a smaller place and news took us to faraway places we had seldom heard of. Without radio many more lives would have been lost when the Titanic sank because the RMS Carpathia only arrived after the radio SOS from the Titanic's radio operator. When man walked on the moon we heard that giant leap live on radio while in the 1930s one of our finest aviators Bert Hinkler recorded his thoughts for history. **Insert.** So did Nancy Bird Walton our pioneering aviatrix. **Insert.** Remember too Jack Davey and the Colgate Palmolive Show and his landmark catch cry, Hi Ho everybody. **Insert.**

So many moments and so much has happened and as commercial Television falters we see a broad resurgence in radio especially in mobile applications and on line via all kinds of devices. In my own case and **We The People** I am delighted to hear from listeners in Sydney, Bendigo, Lismore, Coffs Harbour, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane all of whom listen on line to 4CRB.

This week you are being invited to be part of radio history by supporting this station and the marvelous work it does across so many fields and has done for 30 years. It is a friend to many and driven by high ethical standards making it somewhat unique in a dark and foreboding world. The station is primarily run by volunteers including you and me and together we hope to fulfill Australian radios enduring charter of providing entertainment and friendship to so many wonderful listeners on the Gold Coast.

Before I finish reminiscing and as we reflect on the power of sound here is the most famous of all radio music compositions. Most of us grew up with it and it bridges many listener generations. It's called the **Majestic Fanfare and it** may not strike a chord yet but you will surely now it as a very famous radio theme. **Insert then fade under outro.**

Until next time this is Kent Bayley