

CRAM GUIDE

SPECIAL 3CR ISSUE

Autum 2009
Free (that's right!)

Wham



**BUSTED!
STARS HARD
AT WORK**

2009 PEOPLE POWERED RADIO

Former Broadcasters Talk!



Barricades to the beach!

3CR.org.au



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PEOPLE POWERED RADIO

3CR
RADIO-
THON
2009

BREAKING
NEWS



FOR 33 YEARS 3CR has created people powered radio. From its infancy the station, and the federation of community groups behind it, have relied on the collective energy and commitment of thousands of volunteer hours.

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

People are our power – our day begins with the dedicated volunteer breakfast teams, who arrive early to scour the day's news and provide you with a high fibre start to your day. Powered by a passion for a just world, 3CR's volunteer presenters provide you with a unique range of voices and perspectives rarely heard in the mainstream media.

As each hour clocks over through the day you will hear political discussion and analysis, current affairs, music, union shows, women, ethnic and Indigenous voices. The day ends with the graveyard shift, programmers who share a unique and diverse range of music in the wee hours.

The commitment of our volunteers is overwhelming—many of them have been on air from the very beginning, *Jazz on a Saturday* and *Steam Radio* for example.

In this, now annual edition of the *Cram Guide*, you will read about some of the many people who began their careers in the media at 3CR. They did our general training course, were taught the ropes by other volunteers and have gone on to create media in other workplaces. 3CR is a model of a diverse community holding strong to its core values of independence, people before profit, and progressive voices telling stories not heard elsewhere.

POWERED BY OUR SUPPORTERS

Our annual fundraising drive starts on 1st June and finishes on 14th June (for the garden lovers the *Gardening Show* Radiothon will be on Sunday 21st June from 7.30am).

This year our target will remain at \$210,000. As always we need your financial support to maintain the station from year to year. Like many not-for-profit organisations we are concerned about the impact the financial crisis may have over the coming year. We have been doing all we can to reduce our costs, but the reality is that we are powered by the funds that our listeners donate at Radiothon.

Use your economic power to support an alternative voice, and donate at Radiothon this year!

Libby Jamieson, Station Manager

THE CHAIRPERSON

GRASSROOTS'

3CR continues to broadcast innovative, people powered radio.

RECENT SPECIAL BROADCASTS TO COMMEMORATE International Women's Day and the Where The Heart Is festival have demonstrated the station's creative and informative grassroots broadcast style.

Every year, a diverse line up of the station's female broadcasters celebrate International Women's Day and this year's line-up included the exploration of anarchist feminism, health, transgenderism, music and much more.

The Where The Heart Is festival publicises homelessness, and in March 3CR's *Ruminations* program celebrated the festival with an energetic outside broadcast, live from the Edinburgh Gardens in Fitzroy.

These special broadcasts were powered by volunteers who used their insight, knowledge and skills to provide in-depth coverage and perspectives that you rarely hear on mainstream radio. Congratulations to all involved.

Many of the issues the station covers eventually become 'flavours' that the mainstream media covers as part of its increasingly compact 'news cycles'.

Housing is becoming one of those issues as rents increase, often outrageously, and people struggle to find or afford new rental accommodation in a climate where the rental vacancy rate in Melbourne is about one percent.

It can provide feelings of satisfaction when frustration that issues that 3CR has explored for years are picked up, commercially packaged, examined and then dumped by the mainstream media, while 3CR continues to analyse the issues, often presented by the people most affected by them.

It's not unusual for 3CR's programs to broadcast perspectives about an issue for many years that have largely been ignored by the mainstream media, only to have them broadcast like a cyclone by the mainstream for a few days and then unceremoniously discarded.

It's ironic that the mainstream media regards us as 'fringe radio' when we regularly broadcast about the heart of issues that they eventually pick up.

"It's a bit like a family that has struggled to make ends meet for years finally getting help to buy a brand new car."

Often 3CR is ahead of modern, mainstream trends – except when it comes to equipment. That is about to change as our refurbishment of our upstairs studio nears completion.

Renamed the Bartlett-Hartley Studio in honour of long-time broadcasters Jan Bartlett and Bill Hartley, the studio will have brand new equipment and will be completed by July.

A huge thanks to our donors who contributed specifically to make the new studio become a reality.

It's a bit like a family that has struggled to make ends meet for years finally getting help to buy a brand new car.

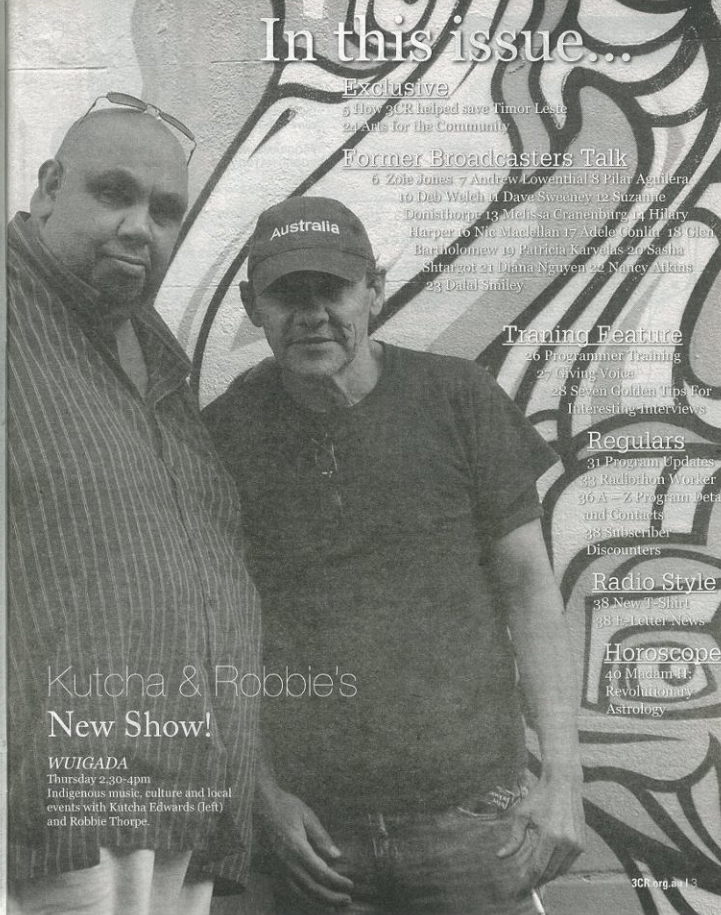
Jan Bartlett, whose contributions to the station embody the spirit of the station's people power philosophy, continues to broadcast *Tuesday HomeTime* each week. Sadly Bill Hartley, who the new studio is also named after, is deceased – but his detailed and strident perspectives about politics, industrial relations and Iraq are strongly and fondly remembered by many 3CR listeners and the 3CR community.

Within days of the September 11 attacks, Bill was predicting that the US would use the attacks as a justification to invade Iraq – a point the mainstream media did not pick up on until much later, when international disagreement over the invasion was heading to debate at the United Nations.

Once again, 3CR was well ahead of the mainstream in its analysis and predictions. Much of the station's unique people power comes from the independent and strident perspectives of our volunteer broadcasters.

It's fitting that *People Power* is the theme of our 2009 Radiothon and I encourage you to support us financially to help keep this great radio station alive.

James McKenzie, Chairperson



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Kutcha & Robbie's New Show!

WUJGADA

Thursday 2:30-4pm
Indigenous music, culture and local
events with Kutcha Edwards (left)
and Robbie Thorpe.

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Current 3CR Management Committee:

Chairperson:
James McKenzie
Vice Chairperson:
Therese Virtue
Treasurer: Paramabalam
Senthooan
Secretary: Nicole Hurlbut
Directors: Marisol Salinas,
Chris Gaffney, Sam
Sowenwee, Gonzalo Illesca,
Bill Deller and Rachel
O'Connell.



Leanne McLean

WITH A HISTORY SPANNING OVER THREE DECADES, thousands of people have produced the radio of a radically diverse community of people, all of whom share in the drive to make the world a better place.

3CR provides a point of engagement for people in a myriad of ways. For some broadcasters 3CR represents their transition from being a consumer of media to a creator of media; others are activists and campaigners who begin as the interviewee, go on to become the interviewer and then move between the two roles. Some discover 3CR when they are young (and not so naive) and experience publicly voicing their opinions for the first time; others find the time for 3CR when they are older and bring a wealth of experience with them.

In this CRAM Guide we hear from people who have worked in the past as 3CR broadcasters and who now work either at other media outlets or in media roles in activist or government organisations. We asked them to write about their time at 3CR, their main memories of 3CR, what they miss (or don't miss) about broadcasting at 3CR, and where they are working now. We specifically chose people who continue to work in media roles so we could see how 3CR plays a part in enabling and inspiring a diversity of people to enter the media landscape.

There isn't necessarily a clear finite period to your time at 3CR when you have been a part of 3CR. As a vibrant left wing broadcaster and activist hub, 3CR remains an open opportunity for independent speech and active engagement. In that way, former broadcaster is a misnomer.

Thanks to everyone who responded and took the time to write about their experiences at 3CR. They have been entertaining to read and a reminder of how unique 3CR is.

In this CRAM we also focus on one of the many special features of 3CR – radio training. 3CR provides access to affordable radio training courses to hundreds of people yearly. All of it is taught by volunteer trainers, themselves 3CR broadcasters. We asked a recent trainee to talk about her experience, while a 3CR volunteer trainer reflects on why he is so committed to training people in radio.

Thanks so much to all contributors – writers, photographers, cartoonists Fiona Katuska, designer Tom Sevil, proof reader Jess Leth, Promotions Sion Committee, 3CR staff and Committee of Management.

Bree McKilligan, CRAM Editor
Contributing CRAM Editor: Lou Smith
Graphic Designer: Tom Sevil
Proof Reader: Jess Leth
Cartoonist: Fiona Katuska

WHOM HEARD BERATE FOR-LESTE

FOR OVER A DECADE (1986-1999) we (Abel Guteres, Koon Nhen Lay and Joaquim Santos) were fortunate enough to be involved with Radio 3CR as presenters of Timor Lia/Voice of Timor and during this time we learned many important skills that gave us the confidence that has been influential in our life paths.

As radio journalists and presenters we learnt through 'doing it on the job' and with self discipline and a professional approach we developed the many important skills necessary to be a radio presenter and news reader.

We wrote news for radio in Tetum (East-Timor's lingua franca) and Haka (Timorese Chinese language), developed translations skills (English – Tetum and Haka), learnt accurate note taking, how to summarise information and documents for radio news format, edited the news and the program, learned soft and hard news, practical radio ethics to protect both people's right to privacy (defamation) and our sources of information.

Timor Lia/Voice of Timor was often conducted live in the studio so we also learned to think on our feet, be concise, in control and be systematic on comments or announcements. Gradually our confidence grew!

Through 3CR we were able to remain up to date with information about the political situation inside East-Timor and this helped clarify and guide our role as activists for the cause. Our radio skills helped us to assist our fellow Timorese radio journalists establish Radio Timor-Leste RTL, National Radio of East-Timor, and increased our knowledge on how a community operates.

As activists we learned that to keep the struggle of our country alive we needed to keep the community informed about East-Timor, by providing them with first-hand news smuggled out of the country and keeping them up to date with what was happening around the world about the plight of the Timorese people, news that the so-called main stream media were not interested in. This included conducting pre-recorded interviews with our political leaders in exile and also in East-Timor on tapes that were smuggled out of the country. By exposing the community to the messages of encouragement and the determination of our leaders we managed to bring the struggle close to every Timorese household.

The struggle of the East Timorese became the topic of discussion at dinner tables, at barbecues, community functions, and sports activities and so on. This kept the community spirits high and enabled them to continue to play their important role in the liberation campaign. Our other desire was to provide news for those Timorese who were unable to read or fully understand English, especially our elders. Through Radiothons and fundraising functions within the community we learned how to fundraise to support the running costs of the radio program.

Working in radio helped us keep informed and up to date about news of East-Timor on our three fronts of struggle: the armed front, the clandestine front and the diplomatic front. The valuable information that we gathered through those fronts helped us enormously with our activist work in lobbying Australian politicians and talking to students groups, church groups, trade

unions, NGOs, Amnesty International and the Australian public at large about East-Timor.

To keep the struggle alive in the consciousness of the largest community of East-Timorese throughout the world we needed to keep them informed about the news back home to help create a positive response for

public action such as demonstrations, petitions, talks to friends and work mates etc, to keep the public pressure on the Australian Government about their policy of de jure recognition of the Indonesian occupation on East-Timor.

The skills and confidence that we gained during our involvement with Radio 3CR provided us with valuable knowledge that ultimately launched us towards our current careers. This experience was directly instrumental in Joaquim Santos gaining employment as a radio journalist in East-Timor from 2001-2005. During this period he helped to lay the early foundations of Radio Timor-Leste and the establishment of the community radio stations throughout the country. At present he is the Manager of the Government Information Office. Its main role is to develop the capacity of civil servants (trainees) from select Ministries in communication and public relations. This involves long-term education, mentoring, training, communication, media liaison, outreach skills etc.

We express our deepest gratitude for the managers and volunteers and many fine comrades from the Trade Unions and individuals associated with the Community Radio 3CR.

Abel Guteres, Timor-Leste Consul General in Sydney (top far left)
Koon Nhen Lay, Property Manager in Dili (far left in top right)
Joaquim Santos, Manager Government Information Office in Dili (top right)
Timor Lia/Voice of Timor was also presented by Francisco Pang Chi Kong, Amandio Gomes, Berta Santos, Hortencio Araujo, Mateus Bere, Rui Bernardes, Teó Serra, Tomas de Jesus, Antonieta Henriques, Jose Antonio, Lurdes Varado, John Sinnott, Emma Brown and Jacinto dos Santos.



THE MEDIA



‘I still get a thrill out of making radio.’

ZOIE JONES

MY STARKEST MEMORY OF MY EARLY DAYS IN COMMUNITY RADIO IS TRYING TO PUT A VINYL RECORD TO AIR (for the digital generation, that's a large black disc with grooves in it that was popular mid to late last century). It was my very first show and I was shaking with nerves so much so that I couldn't get the needle in the groove. It was an excited nervousness, mixed with the thrill of being live on air. Sometimes now when I have one those stressful work days I think back and remember the joy and wonder of those early radio days.

I started out at Adelaide University's 5UV radio station, but soon moved to Melbourne and signed up at 3CR in 1996. I started out working on the *Hometime* shows including Wednesday *Hometime* with the wise and wonderful Juliette Fox.

Around that time I learned about how good radio can draw pictures in people's minds, and about how really good radio can immobilise people, forcing them to sit in their car or stand in their kitchen staring at the wireless.

I also learnt the hard way about bad radio, and made a lot of mistakes on air! I once did a music-based nightshift show during which I nearly fell asleep several times, and I've made many a stumble while reading the news. Thankfully there haven't been any major disasters though. The currency among journalists from competing radio stations in Sydney seems to be which journalist did the most embarrassing on-air mistake. Most recently I've

heard that a newsreader missed her bulletin because she was in the office checking Facebook.

Around 1999 I left 3CR and moved to Triple J where I worked as a reporter on the Morning Show hosted by Francis Leach. There I worked with a seasoned hand Rachel Kerr who taught me a lot about how to tell a story. She once did a story about detoxing that included her getting an enema - compelling radio indeed!

At Triple J I dealt with a lot of work experience students and my advice to them was always to get involved in a community radio station. It was not only about getting career-related experience but also about contributing to a community station, getting the thrill of broadcasting and getting involved.

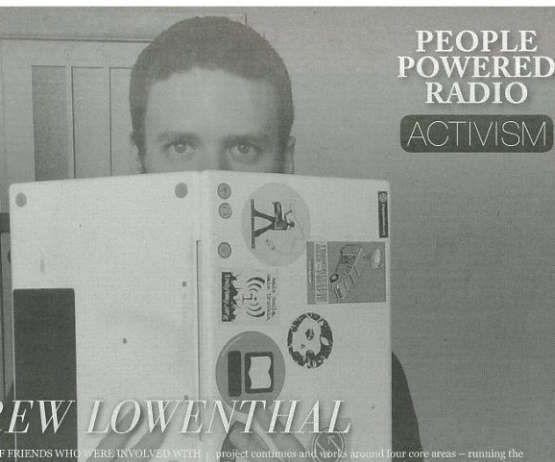
Since Triple J I've worked for ABC News in Sydney and Darwin, and spent almost a year working for Deutsche Welle radio in Cologne, Germany.

Now I'm back in Sydney working as the NSW Transport Reporter, after spending several months filming for the radio current affairs programs AM, PM and The World Today.

I still have anxiety dreams about not being prepared before going live to air and while I no longer shake with nerves (and vinyl has long been replaced by digital audio) I still get a thrill out of making radio. ■

Zoie Jones, ABC radio journalist

Hiding from whom? Andrew Lowenthal masks up behind his trusty machine at the new Engage Media office in Fitzroy.



PEOPLE
POWERED
RADIO
ACTIVISM

ANDREW LOWENTHAL

IHAD A NUMBER OF FRIENDS WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH 3CR so I knew about 3CR through conversations long before I became involved. People would be discussing the programme they were doing and every now and then I'd be interviewed on a 3CR program for my activist activities in various organisations. In terms of starting up *Indymedia Radio* - based on the online activist website *Indymedia* - the radio program was the result of a long ongoing conversation between co-presenter Rory Guttersen and myself that finally came to fruition.

I did *Indymedia Radio* for perhaps one year, starting in September 2002. My role was essentially that of co-presenter. I'd research stories each week on various *Indymedia* sites and then present the news from them. Rory and I would then engage in banter around the various topics that came up.

My first significant foray into media activism was with *Access News* on Channel 31, helping to produce videos, do promotions, and generally try and learn as much as possible. Melbourne's online *Indymedia* in many ways emerged out of the networks produced through *Access News*. From there begins a long six-year journey with *Indymedia*, playing a coordination/promotion/editorial-type role. *Indymedia* in Australia started to go through some rough times from around 2004 onwards and by mid-2007 most of us had had enough in Melbourne and felt it wasn't really working any more, though that is another long story. As a side note there are presently some people working on restarting Melbourne *Indymedia*.

In early 2005 Anna Helme and I decided to start *EngageMedia* www.engagemedia.org an online video sharing site focussed on social justice and environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific. That

project continues and works around four core areas - running the video site, training non-profits in video distribution skills, building a free/open source video sharing platform (which enables you to set up your own YouTube style site) and networking video activists and technologists.

I also spent around three years from 2006 onwards working remotely with Tactical Tech, a UK-based organisation, building skills and strategies around the effective use of technology for non-profits. With them I coordinated a series of free software toolkits focussing on things like audio/video/graphic design, online campaigning and online organising.

I think 3CR's model is very interesting and a good example of community engagement and a structure that is really built on its members. Running a whole radio station with just half a dozen paid staff is really quite impressive. I think also 3CR has managed to stay radical, despite the pressures of funding or business/government interventions. In my own work I take it as a positive example of how things can be done.

3CR prepared me for working in other media activist organisations by providing an example of one way of doing things, not always perfect for sure, but it's a good example of a medium-to-large scale media activist project.

My main memory of 3CR is probably the old school panel, though I've been told that's been replaced now :) I miss the ability to connect immediately to an audience and a community. ■

Andrew is co-founder of *EngageMedia.org*, an online video sharing website focussed on social justice and environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific.

PILAR AGUILERA

ACTIVISM

“I have learned so much at the station, not just what you get taught in training which is amazing — things like producing, editing, outdoor broadcasting, interview techniques etc — but about other valuable people, communication and life skills.”

I FIRST BECAME INVOLVED AT THE STATION WHEN I WAS 17 DOING TRANSLATIONS FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHT *EL SALVADOREAN FMLN* PROGRAM IN 1988.

I was involved for a short period of time and then returned as a volunteer in around 2000. I did the training course and started programming on *Mujeres Latinamericanas*, a Spanish language feminist program that is still on air. This was my introduction into the world of radio. As a program we produced a short documentary for a series that was funded by the NEMBC called *Migrant Women in the Workforce* and this was my first real experience with producing a radio documentary.

In 2001 I became the first Ethnic Resource Worker at 3CR, my job involved liaising with the many NESB programmers at the station. Traditionally the NESB programs are on after hours and as a NESB presenter I found that many of us felt isolated from the rest of the station with little staff support in case things went wrong. As 3CR is a volunteer station things often go wrong, machines don't work as they should etc, and staff support is often needed. I spent time with the NESB presenters after-hours and also helped to train many volunteers.

I did that job for about one and a half years and then continued to volunteer at the radio station in different capacities — I was a trainer, and presented on a number of different programs, such as *Thursday Breakfast*, *Activate*, *Shred* and the last show I participated in for a short time was *Ascend Women*. But my involvement in the last few years has dropped off because of increased work and personal commitments.

I hadn't been involved in media before getting involved at 3CR but had been a political activist for a long time. One of the main reasons I became involved was to be able to contribute and participate in alternative media, to express my voice, but mainly to facilitate and give voice to those who don't have that opportunity, to broadcast to a public and be able to offer a different point of view, something they won't hear on the mainstream radio or other media. In fact when my family first arrived in Australia in 1976 the way that we kept up to date with news from Chile was via the Friday night Chilean program. It was before SBS radio and it had a

political edge that would not have been allowed on any other radio station.

One of the best things about 3CR is that you can learn whatever you like as long as you put in the time and effort. People with more knowledge teach newcomers and so a long chain of knowledge is passed on. I have learned so much at the station, not just what you get taught in training which is amazing — things like producing, editing, outdoor broadcasting, interview techniques etc — but about other valuable people, communication and life skills. I've also learnt negotiating skills, communication skills and the ability to engage in conversation with whoever happens to walk through the door on any given day. If you spend a few hours at the station you are guaranteed to see a bit of every part of the Melbourne community.

By not being so intensely involved at the station I do get to listen to the radio and am constantly amazed at the great quality of radio that is produced by volunteers. The reason why 3CR is alive and well is that there are still committed people who are interested in creating independent radio. The quality of the interviews and the range of topics on air during the week are fabulous!

I have so many wonderful memories of 3CR that it is hard to think of one single memory. Broadcasting live from different rallies, answering phones during Radiothon, training a group of Eritrean women for radio, doing a training program with young Koori women at Northland Secondary College, panelling and using Studio 3, but uppermost in my mind and heart are the people from all walks of life who make 3CR what it is. Amongst those people are some of my dearest friends.

I currently work for a bilingual publisher called Ocean Press and have dabbled in some documentary work. The practical skills I have learnt at the radio have contributed enormously to my job. I also belong to a community housing co-operative and am currently the Chairperson; my time enduring 3CR management committee and sub-committee meetings have also contributed to my facilitating skills. I think I will always be a part of the 3CR community and look forward to programming again in the near future.

Pilar Aguilera, Ocean Press

PEOPLE
POWERED
RADIO

FORMER BROADCASTERS TALK DEB WELCH

IN 1981, I WAS WORKING IN A SUPPORT GROUP FOR HOMELESS YOUNG WOMEN. My boss went to 3CR for an interview and I went along for the experience. But she froze during the interview and to save embarrassment I jumped in and started talking. I had that moment of thinking "Oh I am good at this!" and consulting radio for the first time.

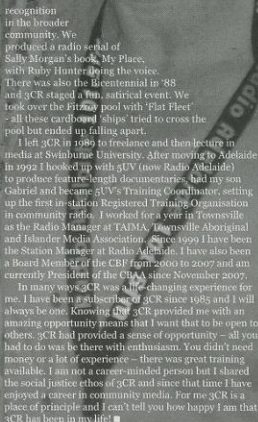
It was a dramatic coincidence that a week later 3CR sent around a call out to community organisations looking for people with a social justice bent to do radio. About half an hour into the first training session I was hooked and I started to obsessively volunteer at 3CR. I was only 22, a country girl with a desire to be involved in things, but not a lot of confidence. 3CR had an inclusive, welcoming feel – not competitive at all. I was trained by Trish Anderson and I became completely hooked on radio. I hung around 3CR sucking up any experience I used to start the day at 3CR at 9am, leave to waitress in the city at lunchtime then return to 3CR until 7pm.

With a group of women we began *Smash 'n Grab*, a women's lunches program that for once wasn't about "women and this" or "women and that". Instead it was about general issues but from women's perspectives.

Then the Volunteer Coordinator asked me to suddenly interview someone and I blundered through. Later I found out she was treating my on the spot skills. She had applied for funding for a Women's Coordinator position at 3CR and I applied for the job. I don't think anyone could have a better starting-out job in radio. Half of my training was in producing audio cassettes and the involvement of women in the station (a survey had found that less than 30% of people in community radio were women) and the other half of my time was spent creating a national women's program. I started *Women On The Line* in 1986. At the time it was before satellite so CD cassettes. It was produced onto cassettes and distributed to radio stations nationally. I had to dub the program and transport to the post box with all these packages.

The '80s was a great era for community radio. It was before the decline of the internet so it was just print or radio. For social action times, radio was the quicker and more engaging of the two mediums. 3CR was about a decade old when I discovered it, so it had mistered. It had just moved to 4 Smith Street and, after a huge community effort, the building was bought. This was a triumph as many radio stations have since owned their own buildings. This was a time pre-Howard – we couldn't anticipate that – and there was a great energy about.

It was also the beginnings of the Reconciliation movement. Trish Anderson and I, as part of training, recorded a well-known musician in the '80s and one of the songs was "Took the Children Away". The stolen generation was something that was finally gaining



Deb Welch is Station Manager at Radio Adelaide

"She froze during the interview and to save embarrassment I jumped in and started talking."

ACTIVISM

"3CR has inspired, annoyed and entertained Melbourne for decades - and provided many of us with skills, support, strength and solidarity."

DAVE SWEENEY

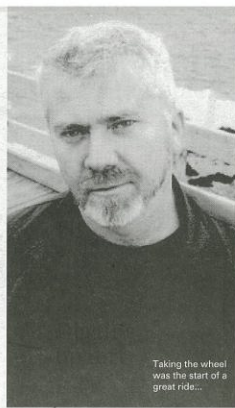
MY INVOLVEMENT WITH 3CR STARTED AS A LISTENER. I discovered 'CR in the early 1980s and loved all of the idea and a lot of the reality of community radio. My on-air involvement started when working with Friends of the Earth in the late 1980s with regular interviews about nuclear issues and far too early Saturday morning starts to say a few words on the *Radioactive Show*.

I spent much of the late 1980s and early 1990s living and working overseas and returned to find a very different Melbourne. A dark cloud had settled over the old town, fuelled by the crash and crash through culture of the early Kennett government. Amid this gloom 3CR was a beacon. Listening to 855AM in a Fitzroy shire house was like sneaking up to the attic to tune into a scratchy BBC broadcast in Occupied France. I decided that it was time to stop listening to resistance radio and time to start making it.

The Stick Together Show was a long-standing 3CR program that was also broadcast nationally on a pretty impressive list of stations. It was funded by the Combined Trade Union Broadcasting Committee and focused on industrial and union news. In 1993 the producers Suzanne Donisthorpe and Fiona Sewell were ready to pass the baton and I was fortunate enough to be offered the stick, if not a piece of a carrot.

Taking the wheel was the start of a great ride, shared first with Richard Donisthorpe and later with Rob Heller. We got ourselves media passes, painted an office upstairs at 'CR, monopolised studio 4 and made a lot of radio – half-hour programs for the Melbourne airwaves and one weekly national program. Life was busy, shows were done to tape. Editing happened with a white pencil, a razor blade and a cutting block and we flogged a Hoodoo Gurus sample as an intro theme.

Community radio provided a window into how the media circus worked. We attended media conferences, got swamped with media releases and story ideas and watched as stories we had covered and commentators we had cultivated got picked up by mainstream media outlets. We attended many of the same events as the commercial media, but with a very different life lens and result. We got to ask the sort of questions that you hope journos would



Taking the wheel was the start of a great ride...

ask to people who were often affronted that the one pre-arranged grab wasn't enough. We met dickheads and cool people and had the privilege to give a modest spotlight to some people and stories and struggles that deserved much more. Our bullhorn detectors were refined and ourchutzpah and four minute mastery of any given issue reinforced. In my later work in media and communications and as a national campaigner these skills – honed at 3CR from 1993 to 1996 – have been highly valuable. Nothing quite does it like doing it, and to be able to work as a journalist and media maker without the constraints of the market or the machine was a gift.

The time at 3CR was always interesting, but it wasn't always easy. We were lucky to get paid but we didn't get paid much. There was station politics, union politics and personal politics to navigate. Sometimes you did a show that you thought was worth a Walkley and there was silence but if someone didn't like your take on an issue the complaints were quick to flow, mostly from disgruntled companies and industry hacks but sometimes from offended listeners. The need to produce daily programs and keep a fresh focus while keeping continuity with the show's expanding themes of industrial, resource, Indigenous, environmental and social justice issues could be a chore. But crap can make good compost and dealing with these things was part of life then and good training for life now. And the positive consistently outweighed the negative.

It's said that every broadcast ever made is somewhere in deep space. My time at 3CR was rich, formative and fun and I like to think of the Zorgons giving Get Smart a break and hearing a younger me giving a serve to the powers that were and be. 3CR is a special place. It is an idea that has a very tangible existence. It has inspired, annoyed and entertained Melbourne for decades – and provided many of us with skills, support, strength and solidarity. It provides a platform for people and a living example of how things not only need to be done differently and can be done differently, but of how things are being done differently. ■

Dave Sweeney is a national nuclear campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation

"The road goes on forever, but the party never ends."

SUZANNE DONISTHORPE

PICTURE THIS – MID 1990's, MARGARET THATCHER AND RONALD REAGAN RULE THE WORLD, THERE ARE A LOT OF TIGHT LEGGINGS, BOOTS AND BAD HAIR AROUND. I, myself was channelling Madonna. Dusan Dusan and Van Halen are doing battle on the mainstream charts – but around 3CR, we hear Paul Kelly, Archie and Ruby, Midnight Oil and UB40's 'One in Ten' – a song about the unemployment rate.

I worked part time on the tri-weekly thirty-minute *Stick Together Show* and part time at the ABC on Wendy Harner's first foray into radio, on a show called Kaboom. So my week went like this... Monday – *Stick Together*, Tuesday – *Kaboom*, Wednesday – *Stick Together*, Thursday... you get the picture.

And that was a pretty accurate description of what it felt like being torn between the two shows. On Mondays, I would find myself talking to extremely grumpy meat workers in Camperdown about the long running dispute that had divided the town. I remember putting the microphone between a Greek chorus of pissed off workers, Meates' Assistant secretary Graham Bird and the Liberal MP Ian Smith – who had finally deigned to come and see what the fuss was all about in his electorate. Fireworks!

On Tuesdays, I found myself trying to track down the owner of the hotel in Alice Springs where Princess Di and her husband Charles had just spent the night. We thought it might be fun to see if they left a mess. (No-one would talk to us.)

Stick Together then, was much like the show you hear today – same issues, same perspectives, which scarily do not seem to have much changed over the years.

I notice you have just had Louise Connor on, talking about the changes to journalism. I remember going to a conference organised by the AJA (now MEEA) when we were all in shock because Rupert Murdoch had just bought controlling interests in the Herald Sun and the OZ. Louise was there too and someone to have a good laugh and a drink with after hours. Some things don't change.

On *Stick Together*, I worked with the lovely Fiona Sewell and Mark Robinson in the tiny upstairs studio, making radio at tape decks, cutting interviews with chingograph pencils and razor blades. Often there were more edit points in a tape than there was tape. I remember thinking what luxury and what waste it was at the ABC, that tape was cut only once – you never recorded over a tape that had been edited. Working on *Stick Together* was crowded and raucous and fabulous fun. It was also a huge privilege to tell the stories of the people who otherwise were never heard on air.

Now I am a producer on the *Artworks* program on Radio National, which, I notice, goes to air the same time on a Sunday morning as *Stick Together*!

I am eternally grateful to 3CR for the excellent training I received in politics, working in confined spaces, camaraderie, co-operation, and making good radio on the smell of an oily rag. And my thanks to all the wonderful people who gave them and give now – of their time, their hearts and souls to make our diverse community voices heard. The road goes on forever, but the party never ends. ■

Suzanne Donisthorpe, Radio National producer.

MELISSA CRANENBURGH

IN 2002, AFTER I CAME BACK FROM A COUPLE OF YEARS LIVING OVERSEAS, a friend who knew I loved community radio suggested I get involved with 3CR. I had already heard some of the broadcasts and I enjoyed hearing some of the alternative current affairs coverage. I turned up at 3CR later that week and signed up as a volunteer.

I was involved with 3CR from around 2002 to 2005. I started off on *Monday Breakfast* with Kate Hainsine and Kullis Conlston – both of whom have gone onto make careers in radio. The capable and lovely Hilary Harper (who you can now hear on ABC's 774) was then Current Affairs Coordinator, and she offered us heaps of support and really useful feedback. Our *Monday Breakfast* team were really enthusiastic. We tried to stretch ourselves, spending on phone calls to do international interviews and covering all sorts of topics we were passionate about.

Probably the *Monday Breakfast* broadcast I'm proudest of was a special broadcast covering the peace protests in the lead-up to the Coalition's invasion of Iraq. As well as talking to the Sydney and Melbourne organisers, we had interviews with the protest organisers in London and Rome. The mood in the studio was electric. I still remember the excitement of being plucked into a mass movement, even if – ultimately – the protests were largely ignored by the respective governments of the day.

Later I got involved with *Talkback With Attitude*. I co-hosted with the irrepressible Joe Toscano. The title of the program is pretty accurate. Joe's attitude to talkback was (and most likely still is): 'We don't turn anyone away'. Joe would let the caller have a say, then if we violently disagreed with them, we told them so. That kind of lively, wild card radio is really where the medium holds its own. Of course, we could also have some really shocking callers. It was a good learning curve.

At a certain point I also put my hand up to do *Women on the Line*, a pre-recorded women's current affairs show that was

broadcast on 3CR then went out on the community satellite band. There were four presenters and we each did one show a month. It was great to learn how to pull a multi-layered radio package together, and to interview women about all sorts of issues. Oh, and I also did a stint as producer for *The Film Show*. 3CR got a bit addictive and I signed up for quite a bit.

Straight out of high school I did a degree in Journalism – specialising in print and broadcast. Since university I've always had some sort of involvement in community radio. I really love the freedom and creativity it offers, the chance to make mistakes and laugh about them, and the license to cover issues you think are under-reported elsewhere. Since 3CR I have done other community radio slots (including, possibly, a podcast bike show, *Along for the Ride*, on Triple R), but I've pretty much carved a career in niche-market print. Now I'm working as the Deputy Editor of *The Big Issue Australia*. It's a great hybrid of an excellent magazine supporting a worthy cause.

"3CR got a bit addictive"

I already had an interest in social justice and direct – and indirect – activism, but 3CR really gave me the opportunity to contact people from a spectrum of organisations and file bases that I hadn't had contact with before. As well as offering a unique media perspective, 3CR plays the classic role of a truly community-minded organisation: it offers the opportunity to get skills in broadcast and learn how the media works from the inside. And that opportunity is available to all its volunteers. That's something that I, and many others, have really benefited from.

So the people I met at 3CR are still an important part of my life, so I have taken them with me. But I certainly miss the breadth of reporting I did there, and the sense of being able – and supported – to try my hand at totally different things. ■

Melissa Cranenburgh is the Deputy Editor of *The Big Issue Australia*.

“One of the best things about working at the station was learning how to interact with a wide range of people. I learned a huge amount about respect, about putting myself in others’ shoes, and about listening.”

IN HINDSIGHT IT SEEMS LIKE A NATURAL PROGRESSION TO HAVE ENDED UP AT 3CR, BUT AT THE TIME IT SEEMED LIKE A HAPPY ACCIDENT. I volunteered at PBS FM while finishing an Arts degree part-time.

When Centrelink realised how long I'd been on the dole they made me do a Jobskills course and, incredibly, I ended up at a not-for-profit outlet called Public Radio News (PRN) producing news bulletins and a current affairs program, *Undercurrents*, for ComRatSat.

I learned a heap about the sector and its crucial role as an alternative to commercial and public broadcasters. When PRN folded and 3CR took on *Undercurrents* in 1997 I tagged along. I learned so much about the huge range of topics you could call ‘current affairs’, the enormous diversity of the Australian community, and the way radio can link people. We'd call people in remote areas, Indigenous communities and regional towns and ask them to comment on issues where they might not have been heard before.

That felt great, though there was always the sense of wishing we could do more, and knowing that ignorance and apathy prevented more people from getting interested and active around these issues. We also occasionally wondered how many people were listening.

Eventually producer Marion Macgregor moved on and I took over, from 2000 till 2002. The extra responsibility was great but it was scary putting together a half-hour program every week on such a diverse range of local, national and international issues. The team grew and shrink, but I think I only had to do it on my own once!

In early 2001 I started working as 3CR's Current Affairs Coordinator

part-time as well, focusing on the brekky and drive teams. I sometimes felt you could call all the station's shows ‘current affairs’, so I tried to be a resource for anyone wanting help with topics, interviewing skills, technical advice or contacts – a massive and probably impossible task but always rewarding.

The small staff at 3CR was great for problem-sharing and solving, but it had its drawbacks. One Radiothon week an elderly supporter came in wanting to donate 5,000 bucks in cash – and the only receipt book was locked away, with everyone but me out to lunch, and I didn't have a key! The poor man had to wait for an hour, grumbling and threatening to leave. I brought him some tea in the hope that he wouldn't walk out with the price of a year's worth of printer toner.

One of the best things about working at the station was learning how to interact with a wide range of people. I learned a huge amount about respect, about putting myself in others' shoes, and about listening. As someone who had often thought of myself as marginalised in some contexts – as a woman, a young person, a country girl, or someone not from a wealthy background – it was a big thing to see that I was one of the luckiest people in our society. Even so, my patience did wear thin sometimes – ‘the wharfie’, a feisty old guy who rang up almost every morning to comment at great length on something the brekky teams had said, got a pretty brusque response some mornings.

Another great thing was feeling part of something bigger than myself, doing something important – and doing it by talking to people about things that interested me. (Working with Joe Testano was good practice for working with Jon Faine too!).

HILARY HARPER

In 2004 I left for a stay in Adelaide, and was lured away permanently by ‘lerv’. I did casual work at the ABC there, filing entertainment reports and audio packages on the Fringe festival, and when I came back to Melbourne I was offered the traffic reporting gig at 774 ABC Melbourne – about as different from 3CR programming as you can get. Now I present the Saturday morning program, covering everything from sustainability, parenting, finance and animal care to local and state news. All that flying by the seat of my pants on *Undercurrents* comes in very handy. I also produce Sunday mornings for Alan Brough, covering arts, music, cultural and social issues, as well as offbeat ideas and debates – all topics I grew to love at 3CR.

The recent bushfires gave me *déjà vu* – the long hours, hard work and sense of urgency were just like Radiothon, when the whole station pulled together and became slightly crazed with exhaustion and camaraderie. A letter to the *Green Guide* that week suggested our coverage was so useful and local and immediate that 774 was ‘most certainly a community radio station!’ That was high praise – and it made us realise we'd been doing our job right.

Things I don't miss about 3CR: running out of toilet paper! ■

Hilary Harper – Presenter of the Saturday Breakfast and Morning programs on 774 ABC Melbourne



"3CR taught me about the magic of microphones"

NIC MACLELLAN

I WAS FIRST INTERVIEWED ON 3CR IN THE LATE 1970s, when the station's studios were still at Cromwell Street. But I really got involved with 'CR in the mid-1980s, when a group of activists from different solidarity organisations got together, to try and bring voices from the Asia-Pacific region onto the airwaves.

A number of solidarity organisations – including the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) movement, Australia Asia Worker Links (AAWL), the Philippines Australia Support Group (PASG) and the Australia East Timor Association (AETA) – were concerned that people's struggles in South East Asia and the Pacific were ignored or misrepresented by the mainstream media.

Together with Bob Muniz, Glenda Laslett and other activists, I helped to create *Asia-Pacific Currents*, which first went to air on 3CR on Saturday 16 March 1985. We did the lot – learning interviews, scripting, editing, announcing and eventually leading the wonders of panel operating.

The first *Asia-Pacific Currents* program featured interviews with Filipino human rights lawyer Jose Diokno, and Marshall Islander Lujli Tafu, who was campaigning against the Reagan administration's testing of MX missiles at Kwajalein Atoll. As well as providing news, interviews and music, *Asia-Pacific Currents* hoped to engage people in action and also highlighted the work of cultural activists and artists. The community announcements at the end of the first program invited people to a concert by the group Inang Laya, and also to attend a meeting to establish a solidarity association with the people of West Papua (in 1984, 12,000 refugees had fled Indonesian human rights abuses across the border into Papua New Guinea – tragically, some of them are still living in these camps nearly 25 years later).

I'm pleased to say that, twenty-four years later, *Asia-Pacific Currents* is still going strong on Saturday mornings!

3CR was a fantastic training-ground in the wonderful world of radio. I'd been involved in print media ever since I worked

THE
MEDIA



for AAP-Repeaters as a copy boy, to earn some pennies as a uni student. But 3CR taught me about the magic of microphones, the intricacies of using recorders and splicing reel-to-reel tape with sticky tape and a razor blade (yes, it was possible to edit before computers came along).

I later went overseas to work with the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) in Fiji, where radio skills came in very handy. During the school year, we contributed segments to a "school of the air" radio program run by Fiji's Ministry of Education, broadcasting to secondary students in isolated rural communities and outlying islands. My partner Nancy Atkins – whom I first met at 3CR in the late 1970s – also taught radio skills to students at the regional Community Education Training Centre in Suva.

Returning to Australia in 2001, I followed the well-worn path that leads from Smith Street to Southbank. After producing the *Time to Talk* website for Radio Australia – to support a radio series about Pacific governance in English and Tok Pisin – I started doing casual work with *RAS Pacific Beat* program. This lively current affairs program beams out across the islands three times a day, and between 2002 and 2005, I worked part time as a journalist and broadcaster, covering regional politics, development and environment stories.

Today, I still work in the Pacific Islands, mixing research for NGOs, universities and community groups with freelance journalism for magazines like *Islands Business*. I still drop in to the 3CR studios every month for a regular gig on Jan Bartlett's *Tuesday Hometime* show, where we cover news about the region and continue to bring voices from the Pacific into the Australian debate. Some things never change. ■

Nic Maclellan works in the Pacific Islands mixing research for NGOs, universities and community groups with freelance journalism for magazines like *Islands Business*.

ADELE CONLIN

WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO MELBOURNE I met a 3CR volunteer by chance while I was house hunting. We got chatting and next thing I knew I was down at the station being a look-aloud – I'd never set foot in a radio station before and it was fascinating. I saw *Local and Live* go air-live as they usually do and I was hooked. The station was looking to train more women to do live-to-air music mixing at the time and I was interested in the technical side of music production so it was a great opportunity at the right time.

From 1997 to 2002 I mostly worked on *Local and Live* mixing live music, but I also did live-to-air music sessions for lots of other programs, plus pandling here and there and helping out with the technical side of benefit gigs. Later on I ran a couple of short courses in 'Sound Basics' for volunteers wanting to understand what sound is and how to make their programs sound better.

3CR was my first taste of the media. I got involved at 3CR at the same time as starting a music degree, and when I finished the degree I got for a job as a trainee audio engineer at the ABC. To my amazement I got it, and I began working for ABC Radio doing technical production for Radio National, Classic FM and JAZZ. Fortunately women's have gotten the traineeship without the experience I gained at 3CR.

During the second year of my traineeship I met and worked alongside a visiting broadcast team from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, who were on a tour of South-east Asia. Some fun times here when I looked like I could be facing redundancy at the end of my traineeship I got in touch with the BBC team and asked if I could spend a couple of months on attachment with them in London. They agreed and within weeks I was in London working on BBC Radio's amazing range of classical music output like opera and the Proms (the world's biggest classical music festival) – it's much more interesting and diverse than the flag-waving silliness of the Last Night. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Even now I still pinch myself.

I've been here for 5 years now. It was a long time before I managed to get a permanent job, but my colleagues were really supportive and campaigned long and hard for me to be taken on. London is a major hub of classical music and performance and so I work with the best musicians in the world in the most challenging and complex broadcasts going. I just love it.

3CR has been hugely important in my development. I think going into public broadcasting from an independent place like 3CR taught me to always question and evaluate the perspective that's being presented – like it or not. In publicly-funded broadcasting there's an impartiality line to be and you can't cross it. It also taught me that the best stories can come from the least likely sources, and to always be on the look-out for that other voice. Even though my work is primarily focused around music it still applies. I have also never lost my love of community volunteer work, and still make time to do voluntary work here.

On the technical side of things, 3CR taught me terrific skills in making things work with whatever resources are at hand, and to think outside the box quickly! That's a valuable skill to have. I now work for the best-funded public broadcaster in the world and the resources I have at my disposal are staggering, mind-boggling, yet working in that kind of environment all the time can almost be a bit of a constraint in some ways (counter-intuitive as that may sound). Cutting your teeth at a place like 3CR means you can adapt to anything that live broadcasting throws at you.

I once had to run out on stage in front of thousands of people and hold up a seriously high-profile classical concert to diagnose and fix something that had gone wrong so we didn't lose the broadcast, and afterwards some of my colleagues said they wouldn't have had the nerve. I just thought about the time I spent in my early days at 3CR, trying to stay on air when things were going wrong and I hadn't a clue what I was doing and there was nobody else there at midnight to help, and was grateful for the lessons I'd

learn't back then.

Activism-wise, 3CR was hugely helpful when it came to getting involved in the student campaign to stop the closure of La Trobe University's Music Department, which was announced whilst I was studying there. 3CR's a great knowledge base, and lots of people there gave us advice on how to go about the campaign and supported us along the way. We came out of the other end much the wiser for the help we'd had.

The energy and buzz around the station hits you as soon as you walk in the door – it's like nowhere else I've ever worked. And all the wonderful program-makers who constantly challenged my thinking about the world. You never knew who'd you'd meet and get chatting to in the courtyard.

I miss lots about 3CR. I miss the feeling of doing radio with other people for the sheer collective love of it. I miss the real independent voice that 3CR is. And the passion of people there – it's brilliant. But thanks to podcasting I don't miss 3CR quite as much as I used to! And I usually pop in to say hello when I am back in Melbourne. I certainly don't feel that it's a place I've entirely left, or that's left me.

Currently I'm a Studio Manager for BBC Radio 3 in London (the BBC's equivalent of ABC Classic FM). 'Studio Manager' is a peculiarly BBC term which translates everywhere else as Audio Engineer. I work on Radio 3's full range of classical music output: operas, orchestral concerts and recordings, outside broadcasts, festivals, music editing, programme editing, live transmissions, and CD and DVD recordings. I'm also a technical specialist for an international night-time service of classical music heard in many countries across Europe, which is provided and broadcast by the BBC. It's a bit like Eurovision, but with classical music and less vote-rigging. ■

Adele Conlin, Studio Manager for BBC Radio 3

"I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Even now I still pinch myself."

GLEN BARTHOLOMEW

FOLLOWING A PERIOD WORKING IN PUBLIC RADIO IN QUEENSLAND, and after moving to Melbourne in 1990, I became involved in 3CR. By then I had completed a Communications degree and written for the college paper, and a few local newspapers in Queensland. After appearing as a guest on radio ADBB FM, I graduated to late night shifts before hosting breakfast and eventually becoming program director.

The first show I joined at 3CR was the *Thursday Morning Breakfast* program, braving the cold Melbourne mornings on Punt Road each week to panel and co-present with three other dedicated souls. I also joined the teams on *The Film Show* and *Open House* – the Sunday morning talkback program – as well as running many training programs for new volunteers.

My time at 3CR coincided with my completion of a Graduate Diploma in Journalism at RMIT. After eventually filing some stories for the ABC, I was fortunate to secure a job with Public Radio News, the Fitzroy-based production house that provided weekly specialist programs like *Watching Brief* and *Dispatches* to the community radio sector. I produced and presented *Communicator* for 18 months – a program broadcast on ABC Radio Australia covering media and communications issues in the Asia Pacific – before becoming Executive Producer and host of *Undercurrents*, the daily current affairs show networked to 30 stations on ComRadSat.

I held that position for 3 years before moving to the ABC to produce Peter Couchman's morning program on what was then 3LO. For the next ten years, I moved around within the ABC, reporting for Triple J and eventually producing and presenting each program on 3LO and working with Jon Paine, Virginia Trioli and Francis Leach among others.

In 2006, I moved to Sydney to work at ABC's National NewsRadio network and became its breakfast anchor soon after.

3CR was an important part of my radio education, giving me the opportunity to come to grips with the craft and the issues and stories affecting people in Melbourne. It gave me a crash course in Victorian politics, made me more questioning of mainstream approaches and conventional wisdoms, and introduced me to people who I'm still in contact with today.

It was, and I expect still is, a great example of true community broadcasting and I still get nostalgic whenever I go past that wild building in Smith Street.

Melbourne has some of the best public radio in the world and 3CR is a big part of that. ■

Glen Bartholomew
ABC NewsRadio Breakfast Host

"I still get nostalgic whenever I go past that wild building in Smith Street."

PEOPLE POWERED RADIO

"I miss the camaraderie of the people at the station"

PATRICIA KARVELAS

IBECAME INVOLVED WITH 3CR WHEN I WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. I was obsessed with radio and news more broadly while quickly developing a keen interest in politics and a commitment toward progressive social change.

Around 1994 and 1995 I joined a myriad of programs. I remember my first was *Wednesday Breakfast*. I remember how torturous I used to find the 4am wake-up as I was only a teenager... But I didn't miss a week because I loved working collaboratively with my team and was quickly put into training and rapidly went from helper to co-presenter.

With my friend Zoie Jones, who now works at the ABC in Sydney, I co-presented a drive-time program called *Girl Zone*. I was also fortunate enough to produce and present *Accent of Women*, which was a multicultural women's program broadcast on community radio across the country. I was involved with 3CR in different capacities, but always broadcasting, for around five years. Both the paid and volunteer staff at the station provided crucial mentoring to me at a time when I needed it most. I was a young little Greek-Australian girl from Carlton

but I was treated as an equal by the people at 3CR and for that I will always be grateful.

3CR was a crucial training ground for my career in media. It gave me the confidence to speak with prominent political people and to learn a lot about how our world really operates. I have since worked at SBS, the ABC and now in print media in *The Australian* as the Canberra political correspondent. All these roles have been easy for me because of the vital experience I was lucky enough to get at 3CR.

My fondest memories are Radiothon and the hype around the station and competition to make sure my program raised the most money. I certainly pumped my family and friends in the meantime!

I miss the camaraderie of the people at the station and the feeling of always being able to come along and participate in something.

The station is not just a radio station – it is a crucial meeting spot for so many people who all want to change the world. ■

Patricia Karvelas – Journalist at *The Australian*

“The station gave me skills in an open and inclusive way. Gaining confidence and skills at 3CR allowed me to believe I could have a career in the media and use the media to make a positive difference in the world.”

SASHA SHTARGOT

I BECAME INVOLVED AT 3CR IN 1995 WHEN FRIENDS OF MINE WERE DOING *THE SUMA SHOW*. I came on the show because I was squatting with some friends in Port Melbourne. We had been welcomed into the two-storey office building by its former occupier, the Public Tenants' Union, which had been de-funded under the Kennett Government and was fighting to stop eviction.

I spoke on *The SUMA Show* about the squat and the people running the program invited me back several times. By the end of that year, management at 3CR coaxed me into joining a *Breakfast Show*, so in 1996 I was one of the presenters of *Thursday Breakfast*, as well as panelling for Joe Toscano on *Anchorhill Hour*. That year, I also did a six-month promotional jobkilla placement at 3CR, driving sound to all parts of Melbourne delivering the station's flyers to libraries and community centres. Between 1997 and 2000 I co-hosted and panelled on *Talkback with Attitude* and the *Jahlika Show*, as well as taping shows off the Community Radio Satellite and helping with Radiothons.

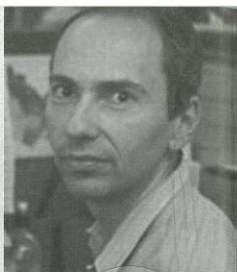
While at 3CR, I got into the Graduate Diploma in Journalism course at RMIT. By the end of 1998 I was working as a casual reporter at *Leader Newspapers*, and when they gave me a full-time job in 2000, I no longer had time to devote to 3CR. After leaving *Leader* in 2003, I got work at *The Age* as a general news reporter and since 2007 have been working there as a sub-editor, which I much prefer.

I'm immensely grateful to 3CR because it gave me a start in the media. I loved being a part of it – it was like a second home. When not in a studio I would haunt the courtyard or the area around the fire. There were always activists, musicians or other interesting people to banter with. In those days I was basically an activist, so like a hungry pig with its snout in the trough, I was very much in my element. Invariably the people at the station were generous and friendly and I got to know and respect the likes of Jan Bartlett, Jay Estorinho, Julia Scott and Jan McArthur. The station gave me skills in an open and inclusive way. Gaining confidence and skills at 3CR allowed me to believe I could have a career in the media and use the media to make a positive difference in the world.

On the downside, in my opinion there was insufficient quality control of some shows (including ones I was in), resulting in very amateurish programming. Also, the station being a child of the 1970s, the politics it promoted tended to be fairly fired and doctrinaire, lacking inquiry and open-mindedness.

However, 3CR is a very important and highly undervalued institution in Melbourne's media landscape. Long may it flex its collective arms! ■

Sasha Shtargot, Sub Editor at *The Age*



THE MEDIA

FORMER BROADCASTERS
TALK

“What I miss about broadcasting at 3CR is seeing the girls every week and laughing and talking about girl's stuff”

DIANA NGUYEN

I BECAME INVOLVED WITH *VOICEBOX* IN LATE DECEMBER 2007 when VoiceBox was looking for young Vietnamese women's stories. The program established by the Buangy Foundation of Australia gave a voice to young Vietnamese women. As an actor and a writer I had written and performed a play earlier that year and I wanted it published so I thought 'what a great opportunity!'. The play, *Like Tears in the Rain*, is about my mother's refugee experience fleeing Vietnam to start a new life in Australia.

In 2008 *VoiceBox* appeared at the Sandown Vietnamese New Year Festival and we performed a song *Vicious Butterfly* that we had written and produced. We continued with more recordings for *VoiceBox* regarding issues such as race, being women in our community and body issues. Before working with 3CR I was already a working actor in the theatre and a drama facilitator. To work with *VoiceBox* and 3CR gave me the opportunity to express my stories, experiences and opinions to a wider community. To share it with other Vietnamese women was comforting as we had similar views or objections, which created great conversations.

VoiceBox began at 3CR in 2004 and finished broadcasting mid-2008. Since leaving 3CR, *VoiceBox* has evolved and become focused

on TV as our next media venture. We've changed the organisation's name to Her Productions. To help with the TV production programming I am running a free performing arts program for young Vietnamese women in Springvale from the ages of 16 to 20 years old – *PLAYBOX*. I will facilitate theatre and short film workshops to encourage young women to use self-expression through body, voice and space. There is no performing arts program available for Vietnamese youth, so *PLAYBOX* has been welcomed by schools in the Springvale area.

What I miss about broadcasting at 3CR is seeing the girls every week and laughing and talking about girl's stuff – to share our unique Vietnamese experiences together and then share it with the wider radio community. Our TV aspirations are on their way with Her Productions at Channel 31. We hope it's on air by the end of 2009 and we hope to continue it long term! ■

Diana Nguyen, Her Productions, Channel 31

The archives of *VoiceBox* can be heard at www.thevoicebox.org.au. People can get in touch with Her Productions via www.herproductions.org or diana@herproductions.org



PEOPLE
POWERED
RADIO

NANCY ATKIN

I WAS SITTING AT A TABLE IN THE STAFFROOM AT BRUNSWICK TECH IN 1976 AND BERNARD SLATTERY TOLD US ABOUT A COMMUNITY RADIO STATION OPENING. Bernard was in Retrieval, a founding 3CR affiliate, who published a monthly magazine reporting alternative news from international journals and newspapers, before the internet. I thought it was a strange idea, as ordinary people didn't talk on the radio; radio announcers had to learn to speak in posh, fruity voices.

In 1976, 3CR moved to Collingwood and I was living in Clifton Hill so I offered to help. I was soon invited to assist Liz Caffin on a morning show. Later I did lots of different programs. I worked on news; on breakfast shows; and on magazine shows at different times. I helped produce the teacher union program. After talkback facilities were installed we started *Open House*, which was a panel discussion with talkback.

I worked on lots of outside broadcasts including the Franklin Dam; the big Palm Sunday anti-nuclear rallies in the 80s; and working with Friends of the Earth at Roxby Downs and Honeycom Uranium mine sites. I went to the 1983 Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Conference in Vanuatu and met Jill Emberson from 2SER. We filed daily reports for Australian public radio. There were no mobile phones so we did voice reports from public phones; hired tape recorders to phone lines with alligator clips; and other innovative solutions.

I was persuaded to get involved in the running of 3CR. There was broad dissatisfaction with parts of the station leadership, who were following quite a sectarian political line. This resulted in some lively elections and major debates. Listener-sponsor numbers grew and we had meetings of 300 and 400 people. I was elected Chairperson, but I had no idea what I was getting into. I thought that once our ticket won the elections, our opponents would shake our hands and cooperate. I was astonished to hear – much later – that on one meeting night, we had bodyguards to make sure we got out safely. 3CR taught me many useful skills – both in community organising, and in media production and publicity – and I've used them in most jobs I've had since I started working there. I was asked to work a day a week with self-help groups, training them to do their own radio programs. Two years with the Workers Health Action group included producing a weekly 3CR spot. I worked with the journalists' union – the MEAA – for seven years. I spent over

three years in Fiji where my position for a regional organisation included programs to educate journalists about reproductive health; teaching radio skills to women community leaders; and producing materials on how to get media publicity.

Writing for radio teaches you to write simply and in plain English, although I've also done more focused sub-editing courses. When I came back from Fiji, I did some short-term work at the ABC editing some online arts pages, before going to work with a health organisation, in a position that included media liaison and newsletter production and website journalism. Now I work for the Medical Association for Prevention of War, where my work includes producing email and print newsletters, writing for the website and some media liaison. It's a campaigning organisation where the organising and fundraising skills that we honed at 3CR are also crucial.

My main memories of 3CR are selections:

■ Cleaning bricks and bagging the

walls where we took over at Smith St. ■ Broadcasting news and actuality about the Honeycom Uranium Mine occupation out of the commercial radio station in Broken Hill, to 3CR and community stations around Australia. We'd approached the local ABC for help but they turned us down, so Greg Segal befriended the commercial radio techs, who hardly ever used their production studio, so with a little re-wiring we were set up beautifully.

■ One Sunday midnight, an station duty, persuading the Prisoners Action Group that it was against station policy to take a shotgun into the studio, even if it was wrapped in a blanket.

Working at 3CR really had everything going for it. It was sociable, interesting, and fun – and it was for a good cause. The microphone and the tape recorder, and the style of programs I produced, got me to everything from the Gordon River, to interviews with visiting musicians and to a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. ■

Nancy Atkin works for the Medical Association for Prevention of War

Nancy (right) as Tahiti, always up for a laugh with friends.

ACTIVISM

“My time at 3CR was the most creative part of my life. I had the privilege of meeting such ‘authentic people’ who inspired me; people who believed in what they were doing and were committed to a vision, a cause, a mission in life.”

DALAL SMILEY

I GREW UP IN A FAMILY OF JOURNALISTS. My older brother is a journalist and writer and worked for a number of radio programs in Lebanon, UK and Europe. My older sister is also a journalist and filmmaker. I was inspired by both of them as I grew up. I migrated to Australia in 1976, met and married Kofi (my husband) who is also a journalist, editor and filmmaker. We worked together in 1993 on a documentary film *Zero to Zenith*, which highlighted the contributions of Arabic community to Australia. Then in 1994 I was given the opportunity to get involved in radio so I jumped to it.

I began in 3CR in 1994 when I joined a group of Arabic-speaking women in a program called *Voice of Arabic Women*. We were trained by 3CR and became totally self-sufficient in producing weekly half-hour variety programs in Arabic.

From 1994 to 1997 I worked on a number of programs. Apart from *Voice of Arabic Women* I also produced programs for *Accent of Women*, *Thursday Hometime*, *Women on the Line* and *Midday Magazine*. I also contributed a few segments for a program I think was called *Left Opinion* and a few *Broadcast Shows*.

Then in 1999 I started full-time work and found it very difficult to continue contributing time to my passion for radio so I stopped. I have since witnessed my youngest son getting interested in a career in radio and film and it looks like he will be taking that path as a career choice after he finishes his VCE this year.

I absolutely loved and still love 3CR! I loved everything about it. What it stood for, the ideals it espoused, the sense of justice and fairness it advocated for, its inclusive culture and the way it made me feel so accepted, valued and cherished. 3CR made me feel I belong, because it gave me a voice, space and validity as a citizen. I was given an outlet for expression I had never had before.

My time at 3CR was the most creative part of my life. I had the privilege of meeting such ‘authentic people’ who inspired me; people who believed in what they were doing and were committed

to a vision, a cause, a mission in life. That's what makes 3CR special, unique and unlike any other radio station.

3CR prepared me for my career at Darbin City Council and now at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade where I work as Manager, Diversity Development. Both jobs involve equity and diversity goals, opening doors and creating access to marginalised groups in our society who are substantially under-represented in our mainstream institutions and government departments. I learnt to persevere and keep believing that achieving social justice is possible, feasible and will happen, sometimes in unexpected ways. But we must never sacrifice idealism at the altar of pragmatism, as the line will keep shifting until we lose sight of what we believed in, in the first place.

I remember how much hard work went into producing my first documentary program for *Women on the Line*. It took weeks of interviewing and recording then just when I thought the job was done, I got the shock of my life when I realised the hours of editing involved to finally come up with a half-hour segment. I basically spent an entire night (10 hours) with the producer of the show putting together a special program on Muslim young women. But, it was all worth it and I am still very proud of that piece of radio we managed to bring to air.

I miss being able to be involved at this way time in my life. I see myself coming back when I finally retire from my full-time job and can devote time to my creative side again. I miss interacting with such a cast of special people who have 3CR in common and who without 3CR would not have crossed paths. I miss the Radiothon time and the excitement and adrenalin rush it generated as we all rallied to raise the necessary funds to keep 3CR on air, as an independent, totally community-owned and controlled radio station. I can't wait to come back one day and be part of such an uplifting experience. ■

Dalal Smiley is Manager, Diversity Development, at Metropolitan Fire Brigade

CARLTON FLATS: ARTS PROJECT ARTS FOR THE COMMUNITY CARLTON COMES ALIVE

FOR THE LAST YEAR, 3CR has been part of an exciting community arts project in our own backyard – the Carlton housing estates.

At the close of 2007, 3CR was invited to become an artistic partner of the Carlton Arts Project, a joint community arts and media project based at the Carlton housing estates. This multi-medium community arts project was initiated by the City of Melbourne and includes Carlton housing estate residents, artists Helena Spyrrou and Angela Bailey, 3CR, RMIT School of Architecture and Design and the Office for Housing.

3CR's contribution is both to stage live on-site broadcasts and

deliver media and radio training to Carlton estate residents through a series of courses that will span over the projected three-year life of the project.

The Carlton Arts Project hit the estates with a splash of pink in 2007 when Spyrrou and Bailey's photo and poetry based exhibition *The Pink Room* documented the impact of the relocation of estate residents and the subsequent demolition of a number of the buildings on Lygon Street. *The Big Photo Party*, a mass group photo event was then staged in the square of the Elgin Street estate in June 2008. Amongst live entertainment by Carlton musicians who live on the estates and free food stalls (including an Ethiopian coffee tent), RMIT students built a mini outdoor station for 3CR that broadcast over the estate for the night. Titled *Elgin Street Live*, the broadcast featured 3CR presenter Pilar Aguilera and Mohammed El-leissy, along with residents Maurice Wilson, Phoebe Belbin and Maria Abraham. Estate residents were interviewed about living on the estate and the impact the re-development has had on their lives. Residents remarked that this was the first time they had experienced a large community event taking place on their estate.

After the success of *Elgin Street Live*, 3CR worked with a small group of Carlton estate residents to produce a series of audio tours called the *People's Tours of Carlton*. The series was inspired by the *People's Tours of Melbourne* website (<http://peoplestour.net/>) where 3CR broadcaster and 3CR Web Team volunteer Jane Curtis asks local Melbourne people to take us on a tour through places and ideas by way of short audio tours and photos.

The participants came to 3CR for six weeks to learn the basic skills of producing an online audio piece, from scripting to editing. They then travelled through Carlton with mini-

disc recorders and cameras, accompanied by 3CR trainers Eleanor McInerney and Nicole Hurtubise, to record the tours and shed some light on a piece of Carlton that is too often overlooked or ignored. The recorded tours were edited with Eleanor and Nicole and uploaded onto the *People's Tours* website.

Each of the six tours travels its own path, offering the listener a new perspective beyond the stereotypes about housing estates. Ruth Rodgers Wright dispels some of the myths of housing estates being dangerous unfriendly places with her *Tour of Children's Laughter*. The tour records her daughter and friends playing in her flat as well as the hallways and elevator of her building. We get a unique dog's eye view of Carlton as Tom and his dog, Ella travel to Ella's favourite places. Rosanna Fuentes guides a tour of attitudes towards public housing that reveals the prejudices that housing estate residents frequently have to deal with. The *People's Tours of Carlton* was played on 3CR in April and can be found online at <http://peoplestour.net/>

In May 3CR, in collaboration with 3CR broadcaster Theresa Virtue and her community music organisation The Boite, a new course began at the Carlton estates, this time for musicians. Aspiring musicians are learning about self-promotion, management and how to apply for funding and grants. Each musician will be recorded at the 3CR studios and the course will culminate in a live gig. 3CR will apply for funding to produce a compilation CD of the musician's songs.

Stay tuned to 3CR and www.3cr.org.au to see how the Carlton Arts Project progresses.

By Nicole Hurtubise and Bree McKilligan

These two courses are part of the Carlton Flats Arts Project produced by the City of Melbourne's Community Cultural Development program and supported by the Office for Housing.



“Each of the six tours travels its own path, offering the listener a new perspective beyond the stereotypes about housing estates.”

A Harmony Day visitor tunes into the audio podcasts at the Carlton Flats.

carlton
SEE + HEAR
PEOPLES TOURS of
CARLTON
PRODUCED by LOCAL
TENANTS, 3CR RADIO &
The CITY of MELBOURNE

3CR IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE COMMUNITY BROADCAST SECTOR FOR ITS DELIVERY OF HIGH QUALITY RADIO TRAINING TO THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS OVER OUR 33 YEAR HISTORY. Many of these broadcasters are still producing insightful, independent radio at 3CR whilst others have moved on to utilise skills learnt here in other media organisations nationally and internationally.

Every year over one hundred people are trained in radio at 3cr. All broadcasters complete one of the five general radio training courses offered to prospective programmers. The courses are taught by experienced 3CR broadcasters and at \$90 concession and \$150 full are aimed at being accessible to all. The training covers everything from interviewing and presentation skills to how to operate a studio panel. Potential 3CR broadcasters interested in getting involved in 3CR can contact the Volunteers and Training Coordinator to discuss volunteering interests and programming ideas at volunteers@3cr.org.au or 03 94198377.

In addition to the general training, 3CR offers radio and media training courses to community organisations and groups. Courses are tailored to the needs of the participants. Recent training clients have been the Dorrville Child Community Health Centre, Yarra Community Health and the City of Melbourne's Carlton Arts Project. If your organisation is interested in doing training at 3CR contact the Special Projects Coordinator on specialprojects@3cr.org.au.

"... training got me thinking about the powerful effect of broadcasting alternative voices, not just words, with volume, in their own language, with their own accent and mode of expression."

People Powered Radio TRAINING PEOPLE

Get an introduction to the 3CR vibe, and be left enchanted with the whole business of making alternative radio...

I RECENTLY JOINED the *Asia Pacific Current* show at 9am on Saturdays. I was initially interested in 3CR as a public education tool. I do the show because I'm a union member, and I want to convey the commonality of the struggles of workers across the region, and promote opportunities for solidarity.

I did my 3CR programmer training over two Saturdays in February this year, so that I could learn how to work the knobs and switches needed to take *Asia Pacific Current* to air. Honestly, I'd probably still choke if I had to go live to air by myself. There are a few technical things I didn't quite master during those four weeks. But then again, the whole exercise wasn't just about technical training. It was also an introduction to the 3CR *vibe*, and left me somewhat enchanted with the whole business of making alternative radio.

As I said, I initially approached 3CR as a public education tool. It did, however, seem to me like a quiet and indirect (but fun) way to reach people, compared to getting involved in organising activist networks, running a website, or blogging. But after those four days at the studio, I was enjoying radio as more than just an efficient (oppressive word that it is) way to communicate information.

A real community dimension to the station came out in the training, and it was largely the 3CR trainers who brought this out. Every week, we had sessions led by different station staff and volunteers. The anecdotes they shared were as educational as the training manual, if not more, and their manifest enjoyment of the station was very motivating.

The training wasn't wholly technical. It incorporated discussions about the distinctive features of community radio, and the broad range of issues the station broadcasts about. The media law session was great, and left us all with our eyes peeled for possible cases of defamation in our favourite Melbourne media. The sessions on structuring interviews, and on voice technique were fun and definitely useful for our shows, and public speaking in general.

During the training there was quite a bit of time to test out the equipment (ranging from spiffy and new to the antiquated) and hear our own regular everyday voices enter the microphones and come out sounding like radio, with their own distinct personalities. The training got me thinking about the powerful effect of broadcasting alternative voices. Not just words, with volume, in their own language, with their own accent and mode of expression. I hadn't thought much before about how our ideas and languages get amplified literally in the public realm.

There were about ten of us doing the training, with interests including politics, nurturing community language and culture, sustainability, science, women's rights, unionism, community health, as well as squatters and the non-waged. The diversity of everyone's interests gave us each new angles with which to look at 3CR and its role. I wish everybody else the best as they start new shows, join existing ones, and get involved at the station.

Thanks to all the volunteers at the station who volunteered their time (including Peter, who's always around on a Saturday morning to patiently field my ongoing questions). And of course I would encourage anyone else to do the course and get involved, either on or off the air. Long live 3CR!

Diana, co-presenter of *Asia Pacific Current*

GIVING VOICE

Their voice is heard even if they never say a word on air. Because it's not just about what is said on air – but about the building, the people, the ideas, the helping hands and shared knowledge.

"... I wanted to continue my affair with community radio."



THE YEAR IS 2005. I'm back in Melbourne from four years overseas. Two of those years in Madang, Papua New Guinea, volunteering by teaching radio journalism at a university. Later I was in Manchester for two years where community radio was just starting to take off. It was a bold experiment that Blair had let loose in an attempt to use "community radio as a community development tool". New Labour thought they could impose their "third way" ideals onto the populace.

In Madang teaching students how to question their corrupt systems and how to inform their people about their own world – and the world at large – was life changing. In Manchester working with refugees, the long-term unemployed, single mothers, prisoners, pensioners and school kids – and showing them that it was okay to hear their own voices on radio – was inspiring.

Doing radio in both places I learnt that information is power and that communities without access to quality information were communities in darkness. I found that the power to hear the roar of one's own voice could inspire those around you to change their lives.

In Madang I found myself in a world that only had two bad (very, very bad) commercial radio stations and a government broadcaster that was of the air ten months of the year due to corruption and neglect. If a village was lucky they could listen on short-wave radio to stations from other provinces or to Radio Australia. But no matter how they tried they couldn't hear their own languages, songs... their own voices.

In Manchester, community radio could finally give voice to the diversity of the city and its cultures. It would break the stranglehold of the BBC and the point to numbers of commercial radio. Afro-Caribbean music programs could now go alongside Iranian political programs (also heard in Tehran via the internet). It was a brave new world for the Mancunians.

On the journey home I knew that I wanted to continue my affair with community radio. I wanted to talk, to learn and to share. I

wanted to link in with a radio station that knew just how powerful a medium radio was, a medium that can change individuals' lives and help to shape the world that person lives in.

And that's how in 2005 I found myself standing at the door of 3CR.

I lived into the deep end and at 3cr by becoming a breakfast presenter. It's a great way to get to know the station and the people drawn into its orbit. 3CR helped me to reconnect with the Melbourne I call home. But as so often happens with volunteer programmers, life and work patterns change. *Breakfast* doesn't fit anymore so I began helping out with training.

There is a brilliant group of volunteers and staff at 3CR that go above and beyond by passing the baton. The core training that 3CR offers to all who enter its doors can literally help to turn lives and perspectives around. On Wednesday evenings and on weekends throughout the year, ears and eyes are opened to this great medium.

Voices are heard and nerves are calmed. Buttons are punched for the first time, mics are held in trembling hands at just the right distance, rules of thumb are passed on, dials turned just that little bit too far then back again, mouses are clicked whilst editing audio for the first time, questions for interviews are formed, new program ideas are tested, defamation is debated, music is chosen and new programmers are shown the difference between being consumers of media and creators of media.

If everything goes as planned these people toddle off into their lives with greater goodness found in themselves and their world. Their voice is heard even if they never say a word on air. Because it's not just about what is said on air – but about the building, the people, the ideas, the helping hands and shared knowledge.

I just want to pause after four years and say thanks to all those people I've met whilst training at 3CR. 3CR gives VOICE. I know it helps me to keep mine.

John Retallick

SEVEN GOLDEN TIPS FOR AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW

hard hitting radio

People Powered Radio
TRAINING
PEOPLE



Tune into Friday Hometown program *In Ya Face*, 4-5.30pm, and experience a seemingly effortless combination of amusing banter, satirical commentary and vibrant interviews on all things queer from a left perspective.

Presenters **Jacqui Brown** and **James McKenzie** enjoy a natural rapport as co-presenters. It makes for excellent listening, but as James explains below there is a structured approach behind the flow...

1. ENCOURAGE YOUR GUEST TO RELAX AND INTERACT.

Some guests are so nervous, they think that if they take a deep breath and just keep talking then everything will be okay. In reality, a guest that doesn't surface for air makes very boring radio and the listeners tune out. Encourage your guests to interact with you or bounce off you. That creates a lively sound rhythm and is interesting for the listener. Listeners want to hear a conversation, not a monologue.

2. ASK SUCCESSION QUESTIONS.

Don't ramble when you ask a question and avoid asking multiple questions within a question. If you ask multiple questions, chances are the guest will only answer one of them. Don't ask a question and then answer it at the end of the question because it will sound

like you are talking to yourself and the guest will have little room to move with a response. If you answer the question for them, chances are they won't have much to add, unless they disagree with the way you've answered yourself and feel confident enough, or are quick enough, to offer an alternative.

3. GENERALLY AVOID YES OR NO ANSWERS.

If you ask a question that requires a yes or no answer, then you need to be prepared to ask another question very quickly. If you're not prepared for that, then dead air and awkwardness usually follows and the interview suffers. You should only ask questions that require a yes or no answer if you want a point to be emphasised sharply. If you don't want a one word answer, ask a question that begins with the words, "To what extent do you think ...?"

4. FIND THE RIGHT INTERVIEW LENGTH.

If the interview sounds like it has finished too soon or has gone for too long, then it probably sounds that way to the listener too. Conduct interviews that go for a duration that is appropriate for the format of your show and makes the listener feel informed. You don't want listeners to feel like they haven't been able to get enough information. Nor do you don't want listeners to feel overloaded by the interview and tune out because it's been going for too long. If you record your interviews and listen back to them, then that will help you to appreciate the interview from a listener's perspective and that will improve your interviews.

5. DO SOME RESEARCH ABOUT THE TOPIC.

If you've done enough research, you probably won't sound like you've run out of interesting things to ask. If you've done enough research and you haven't got anything left to ask, then the interview has probably come to a natural conclusion. If you've done enough research, or know the topic well enough, then you will sound like you know your stuff and that will help to keep the guest and the listeners engaged. If you sound bored or unprepared, then the interview won't inspire the guest or the listeners.

6. MAKE SURE THE LISTENERS KNOW WHO THE GUEST IS.

Introduce your guest at the start of the interview and make it clear what they are talking about and who they represent. If it's a long interview, reiterate who they are and who they represent in the middle of the interview as well. At the end of the interview, finish up with mentioning their name and a line about what you have been talking about. It can be frustrating for listeners if they tune in to an interview after it has started and have to wait for ages to know who they are listening to.

7. DON'T LOCK YOURSELF IN WITH PREPARATION.

Preparing questions can help you to have enough things to ask your guest and can help you to feel confident. But you want that preparation to work in your favour and not lock you in. Sometimes, preparation cannot prepare you for what the guest is going to say. You don't want to miss asking a pertinent question just because you didn't think of it before the interview. If you miss asking a pertinent question, the listener will feel frustrated. Don't deprive yourself of the opportunity to ask a spontaneous but pertinent question.

THE BEGINNING...

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BECOMING INVOLVED WITH 3CR IN 1977. Thirty-two years later I can't help thinking about the men and women, many of whom are now dead, who were involved in the struggle to establish a truly independent media outlet in an era when public opinion was solely moulded by corporate-owned media and the government-gilded ABC. As the pioneers – who were involved in the establishment of a project that continues to flourish thirty-three years later – get older and die, they take their experiences and knowledge to the grave with them. For the last decade I have toyed with the idea of making a documentary about those early years, 1974 to 1980, to publicly acknowledge the sacrifices made by those pioneers. I am interested in creating a permanent record that can be used to help people today and in the future, to dare to dream, to struggle and to win.

Fully Sick This Week, the non profit documentary production company I am involved with that will be making the documentary with the assistance of local young documentary film makers Tanja and Amir, is looking for people involved in the early years of 3CR (1974-1980) to interview. We are also looking to interview relatives and friends of people who have died, who were involved in those formative years. If you know of someone who fits into either category or you were involved in those early years, please contact me directly to arrange an interview.

I can be contacted directly on 0439 395 489 or you can write to me at:
P.O. Box 5035
Alphington VIC 3078
Or you can email me at:
anarchistage@yahoo.com

Filming will start later on this year. Just in case you think this is just another "commercial" venture I would like to reassure you that once production costs are covered (books will be open to be scrutinised) all profits will go towards the running of 3CR. Whether the project goes ahead or not will depend on the level of interest that is generated in this proposed documentary.

Dr. Joseph Toscano
Host *Anarchist World This Week* (since 1977)
Co-Host *Talkback with Attitude* (since 2002)

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE EARLY YEARS OF 3CR (1974-1980)

Digging up dirt

Joe Toscano makes it to the door at 3CR!

Gossip, let's go!

PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Tune into 3CR at any time and you'll sample a feast of diverse and provocative programming. With over 130 programs on air weekly the Programming Coordinator and Programming Sub Committee are constantly introducing new broadcasters and farewelling old programs.

New shows at 3CR

Beyond Zero

Monday 4 – 5pm
Climate change issues with talkback 9419 0155.

Gecko's Show

Thursday 4 – 5pm
A magazine style show with Indigenous news, current affairs and community events.

The Gut Response

Wednesday 5 – 5.30pm
Digesting people, politics and culture each week. Check out www.thegutresponse.com

Saay Xaba

Friday 8 – 9pm
Program of the Australia Saay Harari Association for the Melbourne Harari community.

Spoken Word

Thursday 9 – 9.30am
A program dedicated to the eclectic world of poetry and performance.

Wuigada

Thursday 2.30 – 4pm
Robbie Thorpe and Kutcha Edwards join forces to present the best in Aboriginal music and culture, as well as what's happening in the local community.

3CR says goodbye and thank you the following departing programs

Humari Awaz

3CR's brief encounter with Bollywood!

LadyBeats

Thanks for the frack and funny lady chat and the lady grooves.

Lentil As Anything

News and views from the Lentil cafe and activist crew will continue to get an airing on 3CR's diverse current affairs programs

Marngrook

Listeners for this Indigenous sixty show can still tune in to *Marngrook* each Friday at 2pm on 3CRDN 1505AM.

National Security Files

Muhammad El-Laisy got lonely and invited two fellow funny guys into the studio with him. *The Gut Response* (see left) is the result.

Night of the Assassins

The strange, slightly weird, visceral and captivating sound landscape produced by Rory has taken a back seat due to his PhD. We hope to have him back on the airwaves in the near future.

Songlines

The timeline has morphed in to *Wuigada* – see left!

Voice of Gadaa Oromia

3CR has a number of African programs and this one, in the Oromo language, has ceased.

Radio Mama

Thanks to the mamas for many years of great programming and dynamic campaigning.

Starry Night

We had a tiny bit of standst from this groovy duo, who had to return back home to Japan... they may return...

Special Programming Highlights

3CR's role as an activist hub is apparent with our special broadcasts celebrating and promoting activist and community events. These broadcasts took place in the first half of the year.

Tennerminnerwait and Maulboybeener

January 20th 2009

Outside broadcast commemorating the public executions in Melbourne of two Indigenous Tasmanians.

Survival Day

January 26th 2009

An afternoon of special programming including an outside broadcast from the Share the Spirit festival in Treasury Gardens.

Sustainable Living Festival

February 21st 2009

Outside broadcast from the Sustainable Living Festival at Federation Square.

International Women's Day

March 8th 2009

24 hours of women's programming – interviews, music and politics.

Where the Heart is Festival

Outside broadcast from the homelessness festival in the Edinburgh Gardens with the team from Roomconnections.

May Day May 1st 2009

A morning of special programming dedicated to workers rights and labour issues.

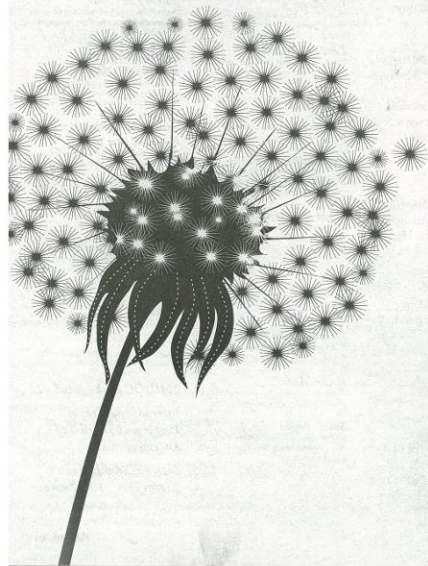
NAIDOC Week - July 5 - 12

International Day of People with Disability - 3 December

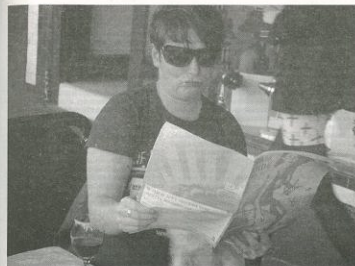
International Human Rights Day - 10 December

New Weekly Podcasts to be found at:

3cr.org.au/
podcasts



- Accent of Women
- Beyond Zero
- DIY Arts Show
- Done By Law
- Food Fight
- Keep Left
- Left After Breakfast
- Lost in Science
- Out of the Pan
- Palestine Remembered
- The Gut Response
- Unitarian Half Hour
- Yarra Bicycle Users Group



Radiothon worker
Marian Prickett
luncheons with her
pocket-sized cutie
"Noodle".

Introducing Marian Prickett 2009's Radiothon Worker!

I've been involved with 3CR since 2001, starting with *Raise The Roof* and now co-presenting *Done By Law*. One of the things I love about 3CR is that the amazing banquet of news, music and current affairs broadcast every week is made possible by the equally amazing diversity of volunteer programmers. Chances are that if you've sat in 3CR's kitchen over the years, you've chatted to one of the thousands of people who have been involved with the station at some point since 1976. What makes 3CR unique is that it doesn't just 'make radio for people', people make radio for themselves and foster a passionate and informed community in the process. This is why Radiothon is so important - 3CR is owned by you and that's what makes radical radio possible!



IN THE PAST YEAR 3CR HAS

- celebrated Indigenous culture, community and activism; broadcasting over 10 hours of Indigenous programs each week.
- provided access to the airwaves for hundreds of community groups.
- trained more than 100 people in radio production skills.
- broadcast live from the Asylum Seeker's Resource Centre in North Melbourne, the Sustainable Living Festival at Federation Square, the Where the Heart is homeless festival in Edinburgh Gardens and the Share the Spirit Festival in Treasury gardens.
- celebrated both International Women's Day with 24 hours of women's voices and the rights of workers on May Day.

Your donation during Radiothon will help us maintain a community voice. Since 1976, 3CR has been a model of a diverse community holding strong to its core values of independence, people before profit and progressive voices telling stories not heard elsewhere. We need you - the community - so you can have a voice!

PEOPLE POWERED RADIO
RADIOTHON 2009 JUNE 1 - 14, TARGET \$210 000 → DONATE!
WWW.3CR.ORG.AU / 03 9419 8377 SUPPORT INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime Phone (required for credit card payments): _____

Ph: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to join the monthly Email Newsletter? Please tick.

I AM DONATING TO THESE PROGRAMS:

PROGRAM _____ \$ _____

PROGRAM _____ \$ _____

PROGRAM _____ \$ _____

please attach address list if needed

DONATE: \$100 \$50 \$20

Other \$ _____

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE (SEE AND OVER)

I WOULD LIKE TO PAY BY:

1. CREDIT CARD

Mastercard/Visa/Bankcard No. _____

Expiry Date: ____/____/____

2. CHEQUE / MONEY ORDER

Made out to: Community Radio Federation Ltd* (please enclose)

3. DIRECT DEBIT

I wish to pay my pledge in monthly instalments directly from my bank account. Please send me an application form.

Please tick.

*please note a tax deductible receipt is not available if you receive a gateway or merchandise

RETURN THIS FORM TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO 3CR: PO BOX 1277 COLLINGWOOD VIC AUSTRALIA 3066

OTHER USE ONLY Date received: _____ Receipt Number: _____ Entered: _____

Radio Style

www.3CR.org.au

THE HOTTEST SOUNDS

New T-Shirt Design COMING SOON!

Why spend loads of money on sweatshop rags when you can sport the new 3CR t-shirt with a clear conscience. Design below! The shirt will cost \$25. Stay tuned to 3CR for details.



Mohammed and Maria step out in style with a new show - Saay Xaba.

SAAY XABA

TOP-RANKING NEWS

Who's saying what? Find out by subscribing to 3CR's New Look monthly E-Letter! Subscribe at www.3CR.org.au

SAAY XABA (Voice of Saay)
Friday 8-9pm HARARI
Community information, news, current affairs and sports for and by the Harari community.



2010 WILL BE THE FIFTH EDITION OF 3CR'S SEEDS OF DISSENT CALENDAR!

3CR'S SEEDS OF DISSENT 2009 CALENDAR SOLD OUT EARLY LAST YEAR SO MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON OUR MAILING LIST FOR THE 2010 SEEDS OF DISSENT CALENDAR!

12 PEOPLE POWERED WAYS TO CHANGE AUSTRALIA IS THE FOCUS OF THE 2010 CALENDAR AND WE ARE ASKING 12 WONDERFUL AUSTRALIAN ARTISTS TO CREATE ARTWORKS FOR EACH OF THE MONTHS. WE NEED TO EMBRACE A PEOPLE POWERED FUTURE AND THIS CALENDAR PROMISES TO BE A GREAT ONE.

EMAIL ADMIN@3CR.ORG.AU TO GET THE NEWS IN OCTOBER OF WHERE AND HOW YOU CAN PURCHASE YOUR COPY OF THE 2010 SEEDS OF DISSENT CALENDAR!

Gemini

The Twins: May 21 to June 21
"Don't worry be happy was a number one jam, Damn if I say it you can slap me right here, (Get it) lets get this party started right Right on, c'mon, What we got to say, Power to the people no delay To make everybody see, In order to fight the powers that be." (Public Enemy)
 You come out fighting this month Gemini like the twin fists of Love and Hate. Your mental outlook is powerful and you will not be easily persuaded to change your opinions and well, there is no need to, because you already know you are right. Duck, jab, weave, and bring the revolution home.



revolution, In her hips there's revolution, Where she walks the revolution's coming, In her kiss I taste the revolution Rebel girl Rebel girl - Rebel girl you are the queen of my world" (Bikini Kill)
 Oh yes Virgo, we know that you possess a true rebel spirit. You feel surrounded at this time by forces of oppression and ignorance. There may be those around you who try to convince you that such things are beyond your control. You know what is right and will follow your conscience. It may take some effort and cunning but your revolution is in the making and it will be unstoppable.

Libra

The Scales: September 23 to October 22
"As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days. The rising of the women means the rising of the race. Nor more the drudge and idler - ten that toil where one reposes, But sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!" (James Oppenheim)
 This month Libra you are here to share in all of your glories,

support and you are prepared to take action. This is a good time for building a strong political movement based on collective resistance and mutual support.

Sagittarius

The Archer: November 22 to December 20
"The suckers are playing with corpses to the marching drum, Flying low in silver bombers under the heat of our troubled sun, The men with machines and the filth parade get wise to your sanity, Yeah, yeah you can't phase me I'm living outside I'm free." (Pink Mountaintops)
 Nothing can hold you back this month Archer and freedom is your catch cry. This month is all about opportunity and you need to keep your eyes wide open to make the most of it. Look past the superficial distractions and you will find an endless source of inspiration and creativity. Keep moving forward and you will be free.

Capricorn

The Goat: December 21 to January 19
"It isn't nice to block the doorway, It isn't nice to go to jail There are nicer ways to do it, But the nice ways always fail It isn't nice, it isn't nice You, told us once, you told us twice But if that is Freedom's price, We don't mind." (Malvina Reynolds)
 Luckily for you Capricorn, being seen as nice has never been of great concern to you. This month you will find yourself deeply involved as part of a collective struggle that has the potential to topple powerful foes. There will be mutual recognition of each other's worth and integrity. Through this you will find new ways and means to collapse the power structures that have been holding you back.

it difficult to sit idly by and say nothing in the midst of oppression and injustice. Your voice and actions will not go uncounted. This is an opportunity to inspire important and lasting change in the world around you.

Pisces

The Fishes: February 19 to March 20
"Revolutionaries makin the unjust get death wit Head on black people got to meet the task Educate, keep learnin, gotta question, ask! And let your light keep shinin and remember the past By any means necessary, we'll be free at last." (Blackalicious)
 The time has come Pisces, for you to fight the good fight. Sometimes it may seem like the roadblocks to the revolution are too many and much too high. This month you will find yourself empowered and inspired by the people around you. It is this through this collective power that you will topple the barricades and claim your freedom.

Aries

The Ram: March 21 to April 20
"I awakened to the cry that the people have the power to redeem the work of fools upon the meek, the graces shower it's decreed, the people rule, the people have the power" (Patti Smith)
 That means you Aries, this month you have the power to bring about long-term revolution through steady, practical change. You will encounter many people whose ignorance and prejudice test your patience. This is a good time to speak your mind, challenge the status quo and make great strides towards the future that you desire.

Taurus

The Bull: April 21 to May 20:
"Workers of the world, awaken! Rise in all your splendid might; Take the wealth that you are making, It belongs to you by right." (IWW)
 Stand up Taurus, its time to kick the ass of the ruling class. Your need for social change, comradeship, and mutual aid is satisfied by participating in collective action this month. A desire for togetherness and harmony makes this an enjoyable period for bringing about the kind of revolution you've always dreamed of.

People's Astrology by Madam H: Revolutionary Astrologist to the Stars

Horoscope

What your stars say this week

Cancer

The Crab: June 22 to July 22
"This is no time for Phony Rhetoric, This is no time for Political Speech This is a time for Action, because the future's Within Reach This is the time, because there is no time." (Lou Reed)
 Cancer you know what time it is! Sound the alarm because the revolution is coming and it's heading your way. You see inequity and oppression in the world around you. By banding together with like-minded comrades, you can work together to make radical change a reality. Through this period of collective action you will develop valuable new relationships that will become the foundation of your collective revolution.

Leo

The Lion: July 23 to August 22
"Standing on solid rock, Standing on sacred ground Living on borrowed time, And the winds of change are blowin' down the line Right down the line." (Goanna)
 This month Leo, you will be the change you want to see happen. You see the potential for new paradigms and practices through collective resistance. Your clarity gives you the opportunity to take action and move in new directions. However, remember that although you may appear to be leading the pack, you are only one of many valuable players in this game.

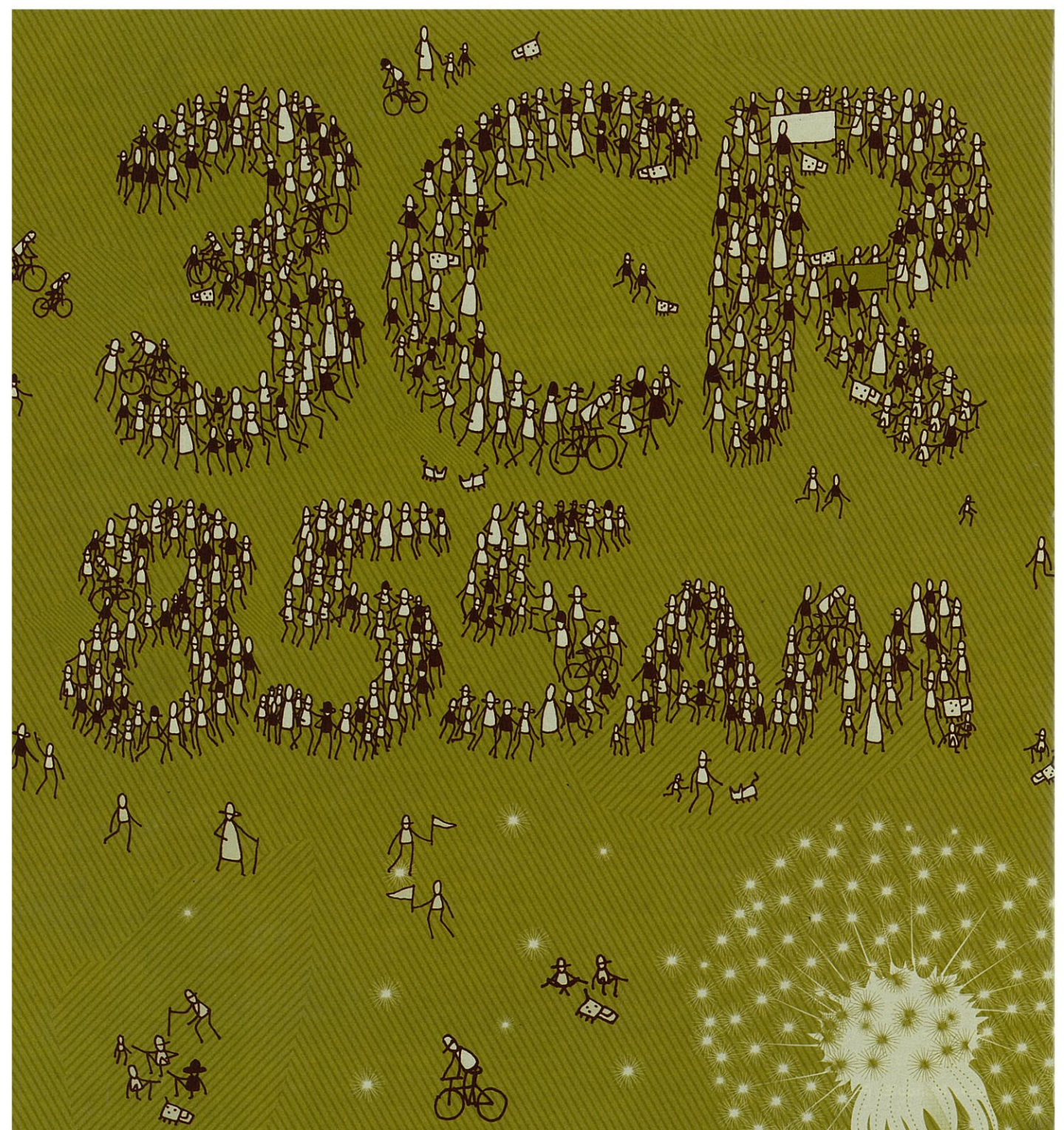
Virgo

The Virgin: August 23 to September 22
"When she talks I hear the

your talent, knowledge and charisma. Your constructive efforts will successfully challenge the status quo when you join forces with others on a common goal. The revolution will come from wisdom and insight as well as a short sharp shock - you have the potential this month to deliver both.

Scorpio

The Scorpion: October 23 to November 21
"We want to blow up yanks, We want to drive their tanks, We want to rob their banks, No, I don't want fries with that thanks!" (Jihad Against America)
 Scorpio, you aren't messing around this month. This is a hectic time; jam-packed with activism, politics and if you're lucky, possibly even a little sedition. You have strong feelings of concern for anyone or anything that needs your



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