Melbourne

Melbourne Observer - Wednesday, February 4, 2009 - Page 7



Usual suspects again

Another Australia Day has been and gone, and many of the usual suspects were again appointed as Australia Day ambassadors. Some of the ambassadors travelled long distances and acquitted themselves excellently at community celebrations for our national day. Others did little at all. **3AW's Bruce** Mansfield again went nowhere on January 26, but gladly accepted the



 Bruce Mansfield plaque. Mansfield this year even snubbed the Ambassadors' reception at State Government House. It's time for a shake-up of the predictable line-up ... some say it is becoming a cosy club, especially with more than half-a-dozen representatives from one Melbourne radio station alone.

In black and white ...

Aboriginal activist Mick Dodson was last week named as Australian of the Year, by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (on a rare visit to Australia).

Observer columnist John Pasqaurelli writes: "So Mick Dodson is 2009 Australian of the Year – amazing yet tragic stuff. How can a person who has said that 'as-



Mick Dodson

similation is genocide' be Australian of the Year? Assimilation is a process of joining together, understanding, mutual coop-

eration and a coming into harmony. "How on earth can this be equated with the mass murder committed by **Hitler** against the **Jews** and others - and the acts of genocide by **Stalin** and other assorted lunatics? On what crazy road are we travelling?

Patti Newton and the Ham

Molly of Chelsea Heights writes: "I thought you would be interested to know that Bruce Mansfield (3AW) is a very generous 'Santa Claus'. Do you believe, he is so generous with other people's presents - he even gave a (station sponsor) Bertocci ham to none other than Patti Newton! I couldn't believe my ears

"Mr Big Noter could have surely known Mrs Newton could afford to buy her own. I thought per-haps she may have politely refused the offer. Or perhaps given it to someone less fortunate - but no. "When she returned to Nightline after Christ-mas, she thanked Bruce once again and dutifully

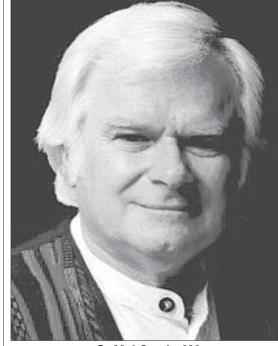
mas - she thanked **Bruce** once again and dutifully remarked how nice it was. Someone challenged him on Nightline talkback and was politely told by the pair of comperes that they can choose who they wish to give a prize to and they couldn't understand what the fusss was about."

ARISE MAL GARVIN ... BU WHAT ABOUT THE MON

Talk is cheap, gossip is priceless

identia

Short



Mal Garvin AM

Radio man Mal Garvin was last week recognised in the Australia Day Honours "for service to the com-munity through the establishment of Fusion Austra-lia and the development of social welfare programs that support and guide young people, and as a broad-caster and author".

Garvin was made a Member (AM) in the General Divi-

sion of the **Order of Australia**. There are many **Melburnians** who remember **Garvin** as Managing Director of **Fusion Media Pty** Ltd, then-operators of radio station **3AK**.

Under Garvin's stewardship, some millions of dollars went unpaid to 3AK creditors, including staff

who never received outstanding wages or superan-nuation entitlements. They would still like their cash. Administrators were appointed in 2001. A deed of arrangement was put into place, and final accounts lodged in 2004. Australian Securities and Investments Commission records show the company to be

still operating from **Poatina** in **Tasmania**. Radio intrigue lived on after the **3AK** financial collapse, with the station later taken over by **Data and Commerce Ltd**, **Jeff Kennett** becoming a director and presenter for a short time, and it later becoming the sports station 1116 SEN.

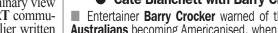
The Fusion Australia organisation became in-volved in the 7HRT Heart 95.7 community radio sta-tion in Tasmania, with Garvin as President. Fusion Australia was contracted to run the day-to-day management of the station. The station's Vice-President

and Treasurer were also linked to Fusion. 7HRT Public Officer Michael Ansky told the Australian Communications and Media Author-ity that the station incurred losses in 2005 and 2006, and had negative equity, and had debt owed to Fusion Australia in an arrangement that went undocumented.

The station is still located at **Poatina**, a **Tasma-nian** hyrdo township purchased by the **Fusion Aus**tralia group

Garvin runs a daily morning program, A Tassie Morning, and the Sunday night Conversation Of A Nation, on the station which is promoted as running

on 60 radio stations across Australia. In April last year, ACMA gave a preliminary view that it was not prepared to renew the 7HRT community radio station licence. ACMA had earlier written to the station saying that it had "serious concerns about certain aspects of 7HRT's compliance with licence conditions". 7HRT continues to operate.



In a true-blue Aussie move, Barry was pictured with former Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School student, Cate Blanchett.

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Whispers Sober



Entertainer Tracy Bartram impressed

many with a frank

radio interview over

the suimmer break. She told her trials as an alcoholic, real-ising she was "pow-

erless over alcohol".

She has been sober

Tracy runs a retreat at Warburton.

Deported

Rex Gardner

Australian newsman Rex Gardner

was last week de-

ported by the Fiji

military government, touchy over a critical

letter published in

The Fiji Times, of

which he was Acting

Publisher for a six-

month stint that was

due to finish last Sat-

urday anyway. Gard-

ner, a former boss of

Melbourne's Lead-

er Newspapers group, had replaced

Evan Hannah, who

last year was also

deported from the

Pacific nation.

In Court

Xavier Cabrini Hos-

pital is alleging that it is owed money by

Olga Stankovic for

work and labour

done and material

supplied. The allega-

tion is scheduled to

begin to be tested on

Wednesday next

week (Feb. 11). A

Registrars' Hearing is

Frances

St

Christmas 2002. These days,

since

One or two more Victoria Cross medals on the way soon for Aussie soldiers?

Sharp

■ Did you spot 3AW weekend presenter Alan Pearsall on the TV news last week, as a Connex rail passenger, having train plans explained by State Government Transport Minister Lynne Kosky.

■ We're told Fairfax Community Newspapers has closed its Moreland Community News weekly.

■ Radio man Keith McGowan's recording, A Little Boy's Christmas Prayer, has been removed from the You Tube website, with the operators claim-ing a 'copyright violation' by the user who 'up-loaded' the audio track.



Hear It Here First

Buyer for radio stations?

Rupert Murdoch's son Lachlan Murdoch has been suggested as a buyer for the **Fairfax Media** radio interests including **3AW** and **Magic 1278**.

Reject Shop had rejects

The Reject Shop stock children's top products which exceeded permissable lead levels, and a cosmetic product did not comply with mandatory standards. The company has given an enforceable under-taking to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission that it will not stock items such as the Knights Playset and Universal Wipes.

The Adventures of Bazza



Cate Blanchett with Barry Crocker Entertainer Barry Crocker warned of the danger of

Australians becoming Americanised, when he appeared on *Today Tonight* last week.

timed for 2.15pm at **Dandenong Magis**trates' Court.

