

DAVID HEARD'S
SPEECH AT
HEARD'S 30
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My first connection with PBS was in 1978 when I went to a meeting at the Prince of Wales Hotel in St. Kilda, which later became the Station's first home. The meeting was convened by a group of people who had a vision for a radio station based on the progressive rock stations in America at the time. Stations that were different in format from what we had grown up with here. They'd do things like play an entire album side or an interview special that ran for an hour. We started with those sorts of ideas and they've pretty much remained.

I became actively involved in the Station shortly after that as part of a very small outside recording unit with Rod McCubbin, the designer and builder of the McCubbin desk which served us so well at the other end of Fitzroy Street for many years.

I probably presented my first show in the first six months of the Station going to air with my panel operator, Cameron Paine. It was a mishmash of R & B, country, folk and acoustic music. Today we call it "roots" (but) nothing much has changed! My first regular show was the Mainly Acoustic program on Saturday mornings which I shared with Roger Holdsworth, Raymond Mow and Suzette Watkins.

For the first few years, PBS only broadcast on weekday evenings and weekends. Sometime in the 80's, the Board appointed Brian Wise to devise a week day daytime program grid. Brian gave me a Thursday afternoon slot. I've been there ever since, apart from a couple of years I spent in Sydney. My present program, Acid Country, has been on air for about 10 years.

I didn't want to mention any names but I think a few people should be singled out for the contribution and sacrifices they've made at different points of the Station's evolution: John Maizels and the original board, Ian Stanistreet, Helen Meyer, Mazz Knott, Peter

Chelew, Roger Jones, Peter Merritt, Jamie Suppa, Stewie Hughes and of course, Bill Runting, who has kept us on air 24/7 for god knows how long. And, of course all the staff and board members over the years.

PBS was always the Cinderella of Public, later Community, radio. We still remember the struggles to stay afloat, the Sheriff on the doorstep and so on. It's truly amazing that we have survived. We've done it due to the hard work and generosity of many people, including our subscribers/members. I'm sure that support will continue as we face more challenges in the future. You only need to look at the terrific response we had to our recent transmitter appeal: \$100.000 in less than a year.

PBS, thanks for the opportunity, and the memories. I'm as excited about the Station now as I was in 1978.