
ROB BUCKINGHAM

Honorary Life Membership of Light-FM for Rob Buckingham at the Celebration Event, 29 May 2008

There is a long-standing tradition that has been going now for two whole years, this being the second time we've done it, -- a tradition that the Deputy Chair of the Board gives an Honorary Life Membership to some worthy person. And tonight we are doing it again.

Yes, we are about to surprise some unsuspecting soul with an honour they were not expecting, and are probably too humble to even see it coming. So if you're so vain enough to be thinking *is it me?* Then this speech is probably not about you.

Tonight we want to give an Honorary Life Membership to someone who has been part of Light-FM's on-air and off-air activities since before we were officially licensed to broadcast.

His voice is familiar to listeners because he's one of our on-air personalities. He started in radio in Western Australia and at one stage had the number one rating radio program in all of Geraldton. Some have suggested this is like boasting that one is taller than Kylie Minogue.

In any case, he had a vision for radio, and for a life work, that was just too big for Geraldton, so he came to Melbourne.

He worked in commercial radio at 3MP hosting, among other things, a Sunday program with his Friends. During that time he interviewed all kinds of famous people. Whitney Houston. Lionel Ritchie. Even, on one rating-grabbing occasion the then chief executive of World Vision Australia. What was that guy's name?

Lots of people in Melbourne knew him as a radio announcer with a gentle, engaging style who had a natural and authentic rapport with the listener. But other people knew him as pastor of their church. First in Keysborough, and later in Cheltenham where he was soon joined in ministry and matrimony by a passionate and fiery Irish woman named Christie. The church at Cheltenham has proved Kev Carmody's lyrics – From Little Things, Big Things Grow.

When Light-FM began broadcasting, this radio announcer joined the team on air from the very first day, and he also worked behind the scenes listening to music and creating the playlists that were to become part of the distinctive voice of Christian radio in this city.

He is still doing it today. Still a presence on the air waves. Still the pastor of a vibrant and growing church. Still working behind the scenes to shape the voice and sound of Light-FM.

Never seeking to push himself forward, he just says he wants to express his passion for Light-FM in any way he can. In many ways, he embodies the values of a station that wants to put the message first. Light-FM is not a place for huge egos and self-promoters—and in the radio medium there are plenty of temptations to be both.

This is not the road chosen by this colleague. He has chosen a better way. And we at Light-FM, and the listeners of Melbourne, are the better for it. So, join me in saying thank you, and well done, good and faithful servant, to Rob Buckingham.