



# Observer Overnighters

MELBOURNE has its own culture that lives in the 'wee small hours' between Midnight and Dawn. Our *Melbourne Observer Overnighters* section includes some of the people and their interests, many of which are reflected in the top-rating 3AW 'Overnighters' radio program, 12 Midnight-5.30am, hosted by Keith McGowan.

Overnighters No 62

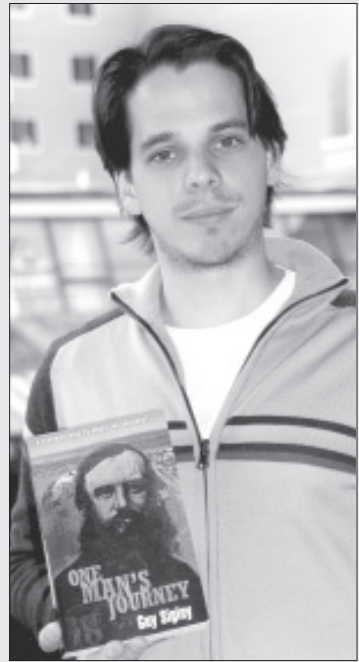
www.overnighters.com.au

## Keith McGowan salutes Brian Blackmore

### Best wishes Tess

Trish Rose of Mill Park extends her best wishes to an **Overnighters** favourite, **Tess of South Melbourne**, who is now out of hospital. Both share an Irish heritage. 'Rose' lived in **Sandymount, Dublin, Ireland**.

### Author on air



● Guy Sigley

There has been excellent listener response to the interview between **Keith McGowan** and **Guy Sigley**. **Guy** wrote **One Man's Journey**, the story of the opening up of Central Australia.

### Around the World

The **Overnighters** radio program has had an international feel over the past fortnight, with **World Cup** soccer reports from **Jay Mueller** and **Ross Stevenson**, and even a call from **Jaime of Alaska** who gave details of the longest day (19½ hours) on June 21.

**Jaime** said official sun-up time was 4.20am, with sunset at 11.42pm. The shortest day in **Anchorage** in December will be 5½ hours daylight. It is effectively all daylight from May 10 to August 2.

"How do you put the kids to sleep?" asked **Keith McGowan**.

**Jaime** lives in the town of **Barrow**, which has a population of 4500.



### Impressed by potter Zac

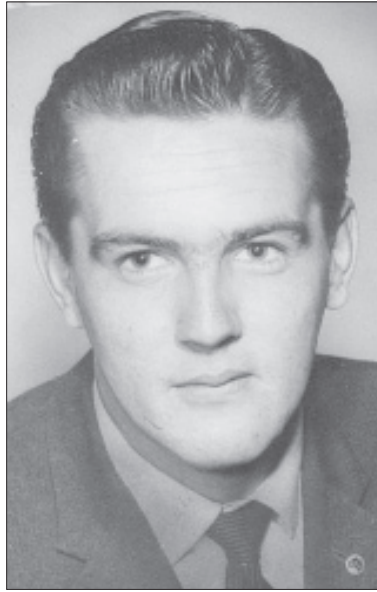
Pictured above: Potter **Zac Chalmers** meets **Angela McGowan** at the **Valley Plains Pottery**, off **Nicholas Rd**, between **Koonawarra** and **Inverloch**. **Zac** works in the traditional manner, using a wood fired kiln. **Angela** particularly liked the deposits of wood ash that makes each item so individual. [tnz@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:tnz@vic.australis.com.au)

### Howler ...

An elderly woman returned home from an evening at church to discover an intruder robbing her house. She yelled "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be baptised in the name of **Jesus Christ** so that your sins may be forgiven.) The burglar stopped. The woman called the police and explained the situation. The officer asked the burglar "Why did you stand there? All the old lady did was yell scripture at you." "Scripture?" said the burglar. "She said she had an axe and two 38s!"

### Get well wishes

**Ian Armstrong** has been on the sick list and unable to be a panel member for recent episodes of the **Antiques and Collectables Show**, 12.05am Fridays.



● Brian Blackmore

**Overnighters** radio host **Keith McGowan** says he is deeply saddened by the passing of racing caller **Brian Blackmore**, at the age of 67.

The pair worked together at **3DB**, when **Keith** co-ordinated the afternoon racing broadcasts. **Brian Blackmore** was known as "the caller of the people", and was an understudy to **Bill Collins**.

**Brian** had a love of harness racing, and the pair enjoyed great times on race tracks. **Keith** and **Brian** had a regular association, as **Keith** provided the station co-ordination duties between race meetings around the nation.

**Steve Cairns**, **Sport 927** colleague, said of **Brian**: "He wasn't one for the limelight, just a real down-to-earth bloke."

"He had no airs and graces. **Greg Miles** and **John Tapp** both said that he had great delivery."

Racecaller **John Russell** said: "He was an excellent caller in all fields."

Friend **Rick McIntosh** said: "He liked a smoke, a bet and a drink. I can't speak highly enough of the guy."

Colleagues laugh that **Blackmore** was sacked from the **Penthouse Club** TV program when he expressed, on-air, a dislike for **Courage** beer. There was one problem: **Courage** was the sponsor for the **Channel 7** Saturday night program.

**Brian Blackmore** is survived by his wife **Marilyn** and five children.

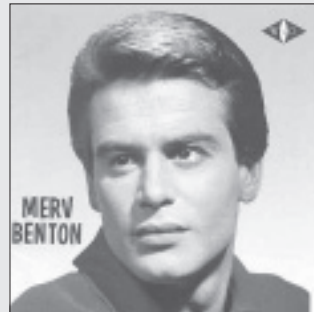
### Merv Benton returns to Aust.

With temperatures of 110°F, **Merv Benton** spoke with **Keith McGowan** from **Phoenix, Arizona**, on Monday morning.

**Merv** has been in **Arizona** for 15 years, as a childcare centre consultant, but will return to Australia on Saturday, August 12, for a special concert at **Moorabbin Town Hall (Kingston City Hall)**. **Merv** will celebrate his 64th birthday on the night.

**Merv** said that he had seen the cover of **Wayne Mac's** book, **Don't Touch That Dial**, which features a front-cover photo of **Merv** and **Keith** at **6PR** in the 1960s.

**Greg Lynch**, who sent copies of the **Melbourne Observer** coverage of the book to **Merv**, can be contacted on 9759 5818.



● Merv Benton

### International

Amongst the international calls to the **Overnighters** radio program have been motoring correspondent **Chris de Fraga** (from **Paris**, but now back in **Australia**); and **John Howie** from **Lexington, Virginia, USA** on his 'Sights of America By Day, Sounds of America By Night' tour.

### Pitchy Ritchy

**Overnighters** have traced the origin of the name of the **Pitchy Ritchy Pass** in **South Australia**. It means a mild intoxicant by chewing leaves.

### Young Talent

One of the **2 O'Clock** specials over the past week on the **Overnighters** radio program was a recording by **Johnny Young** and the **Young Talent Time** team.

Some of the tracks included **He's A Rebel (Debbie Byrne)**, and **Impossible Dream (Denis Walter)**. Others to appear on the 1974 recording were **Derek Redfern, Julie Riles, Greg Mills, Philip Gould, Jane Scali** and judge **Evie Hayes**.

### Quotable quote

**Overnighter, Joanne of Blackburn**, says she knew she would be quoted on this page, when she said, on air: "I sleep with the blankets over my head." She was correct.



● Joanne of Blackburn

### High St service

The address for the **High Street China Finding Service**, mentioned on the **Antiques and Collectables Show**, is 1008 High St, Armadale. Phone: 9509 6337.

### Naxos Musicals

**Keith McGowan** has launched the **Naxos Musicals** CD featuring **Rodgers and Hammerstein** compositions including **The King and I**, with the original 1951 **Broadway** cast including **Gertrude Lawrence** and **Yul Brynner**. The CD is available from **Discurio**, 113 Hardware St, City. Phone: 9600 1488.

### Observer On This Day

#### Wednesday, July 5

**Brian James**, Australian actor, is 83 today. His film credits include **On The Beach** (1959) and **The Fourth Wish** (1976).

**Mary Kostakidis**, newsreader, was born on this day in 1954.

**Stephanie McIntosh**, **Sky** in **Neighbours**, is 21 today.

#### Thursday, July 6

**Nancy Reagan (Anne Robbins)** is 85 today. She is former **American** First Lady.

Australian actress **Ruth Cracknell** was born on this day at **Maitland, NSW**. She died aged 76.

Irish comedian **Dave Allen (David O'Mahoney)** was born 1936, died 2005.

#### Friday, July 7

Australian country signer **Reg Lindsay** was born in 1932 (74). His biggest hit single was **Armstrong** in 1971.

**Brisbane Lions** footballer **Michael Voss** is 31. He was co-winner of the **Brownlow Medal** with **James Hird** in 1996.

#### Saturday, July 8

Composer **Percy Grainger** was born on this day in 1882. He died aged 78 in 1961.

**Paul Cronin**, stand-in host for **3AW**, was born in **Jamestown, SA**, in 1938. He is 68. His most famous role was as **Dave Sullivan** in the **Nine Network/Crawford** production, 1976-82.

#### Sunday, July 9

The late **Bon Scott (Ronald Scott)** of **AC-DC** was born on this day in **Scotland** in 1946. He died aged 33 in 1980.

Actor **Tom Hanks** is 50 today. He was born in **Concord, California**. He won Oscars for **Forrest Gump** and **Philadelphia**.

#### Monday, July 10

Australian cricketer **Keith Stackpole** was born in **Collingwood** in 1940. He is 66.

**Digger Revell (Gary Hildred)**, singer, was born in **Dubbo NSW** in 1943. In 2001 he was jailed for three years for producing cannabis. He was previously jailed for four years on drug charges.

#### Tuesday, July 11

Australian politician **Gough Whitlam** is 90 today. He was dismissed as Prime Minister on November 11, 1975.

Sydney radio and TV presenter **Ron Casey** is 77. 'Won' was born in **Lismore**, and worked on **2KY** and **2GB**.