

Tune in for a Saturday radio treat

Tune the radio dial to 783AM Wellington Access Radio on Saturdays and you will hear voices you don't often hear on the radio.

Over the next year, a group of young Wellington broadcasters will be hosting their own radio show from 9am to 10am. It's all there – news and views, sport, quizzes and, of course, music. The programme is scripted, pre-recorded and fronted by Active Youth, a group of young people with intellectual disabilities supported by IHC.

The first of 52 programmes, jointly funded by the IHC Foundation and Wellington Access Radio – went to air in early September. Station manager Kristen Peterson says the plan is to make a year's worth of hour-long programmes. "They come up with the content themselves but liaise with us to a degree. The concept of Access Radio is by, for and about our community, so I don't editorialise. It's hearing their stories – that's what makes compelling radio," she says.

"They are intending to bring in some guests to talk about wider problems in the disability community." However, Kristen says the programme won't be focused on disability issues, but on getting young people to talk about their lives and experiences. "Some of them are very keen on sport and they actually get to talk about it instead of listening to professional commentary.

"It's very much them representing themselves – talking about positive things in their lives and talking about



Wellington Access Radio station manager Kristen Peterson and her team are supporting a group of young broadcasters to make a year's worth of programmes

the barriers that they face. It's them speaking in their own words; no one speaking for them. That is really what we specialise in here – letting people speak in their own voices."

Kristen says the group scripts the segments then records the show over two hours on a Thursday morning. "We have a run sheet that they fill out so they have an idea of the timing of the show and they pick music that they want to play between the segments.

"Tony Kemp, studio operator, takes them into the studio and pre-records the programme. He then cuts it together so it's a tightly produced piece."

Kristen says the young people were nervous to begin with – "now they love it; they are really confident".

If 9am is too early to tune in on a Saturday morning, you can catch the show later. It's repeated at 6pm on Saturday evening and available as a podcast on the Wellington Access Radio website accessradio.org.nz

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Wellington Access Radio presenter retires after 34 years

Dominion Post
ELIZABETH BEATTIE
June 22 2015



ELIZABETH BEATTIE

After a 34-year broadcasting career, Bala Thompson is stepping down as presenter of Wellington's Access Radio show *Bhati Brbha*.

Community radio personality Bala Thompson has retired from a vibrant broadcasting career, at the age of 80.

Bala has been the presenter of the Indian community programme *Bhati Brbha*, on Wellington's Access Radio, for 34 years.

Thompson had her first taste at radio broadcasting in her native Tanzania in the 1960s, before she moved with her journalist husband to New Zealand. They lived in Dunedin, before settling in Wellington in 1972.

It was while in Dunedin that Thompson says she was first inspired to start a community radio programme, and when she and her husband moved to Wellington, she continued to pursue the idea.

"When you're away from your motherland, you're a foreigner in the country and you miss your food, you miss your music, you miss your language, and I missed it," she says.

"There was no such thing as a community radio speaking our languages, so I started writing letters, lobbying, and nobody wanted to know."

Thompson campaigned for nearly 10 years before she finally secured the radio programme she wanted, fulfilling her vision of connecting the local Indian community.

In 1981 Wellington Access radio was founded by Thompson and four others, and Thompson started *Bhati Brbha*.

"It all came from [the heart], what you see is what you get, [and] it just grew and grew and grew," she says.

Thompson classified her shows as "news, views, music, and interviews", and when she visited her family in India, she would bring back interviews with Bollywood stars, and hunt out the latest music.

"Whenever I went back to India I went shopping like crazy, I have four-and-a-half thousand cassettes, something like two hundred CDs, vinyls, and minidisks," she says.

Always important to Thompson was the idea of welcoming everyone to listen to her show, and encourage community.

"I didn't just want the Indians to listen, I wanted the Kiwis to listen too.

"[You must] consider everybody as part of the community, and do the programme that caters to all, not just one particular group."

Thompson has always followed her passion for cooking, travel, music, fashion and people. In 1986 she published the classic cook book *Curries for Kiwis*.

She also ran regular cooking classes at the Wellington Community Centre and on one occasion gave the governor-general's chef a private cooking lesson.

"I hope Government House is making good curries," she says.

- Stuff

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Left to right: Neelima Bhula, Mukesh Patel and Beena Patel.

On air

Many cultural groups use community access radio to stay in touch with their communities. Wellington Indian Association is one.

It is an unusual way of celebrating Diwali, the Indian festival of the lights. Gathered around the microphones in a small, warm, soundproof radio studio, Mukesh Patel, Neelima Bhula and Beena Patel are live on air creating a special two-hour episode of Aakashwani Bharat Bhavan.

As a Bollywood singer calling out to his lovers on the street plays over the sound system, the three joke among themselves in Gujarati. Then the track ends, the room goes silent and Beena focuses on the microphone. She is next up, but over the course of the show all three will address an audience that, thanks to the internet, now extends worldwide.

Aakashwani Bharat Bhavan (in English, Radio Bharat Bhavan) began in the 1994, says Mukesh, with a group from the Wellington Indian

Association meeting at each other's homes to tape-record the programme for later broadcast.

They were answering a need. At the time there was little or no programming for the New Zealand Indian community, and certainly nothing in Hindi or, for that matter, Gujarati, the language and community best represented in the Wellington Indian Association.

Who listens to Aakashwani Bharat Bhavan? The programme particularly appeals to older first-generation migrants, says Mukesh. The choice of music, often from the '30s, '40s and '50s and fetched from personal tape and CD collections, reflects that. The programme connects listeners with their personal histories, "and they like listening to our conversation and joking around," says Neelima.

CULTURE

Aakashwani Bharat Bhavan
Mondays 6pm – 7pm
Wellington Access Radio 783am
accessradio.org.nz

Wellington Indian Association
www.wia.org.nz

Find your local community access station

While there are now local 24-hour commercial radio stations broadcasting in Hindi, Aakashwani Bharat Bhavan remains the only New Zealand programme in Gujarati and, being based outside of India, it is rare worldwide.

Neelima, Beena and Mukesh know they are being heard. Often people will recognise their voices, and with the spread of streaming and podcasts, the programme has attracted e-mails from around the world, phone calls from America, and even visits from overseas listeners who have happened to be in Wellington.

Being a community access radio host and programmer must be satisfying. Mukesh and Neelima have been with Aakashwani Bharat Bhavan since the 1990s, and Beena, the most recent recruit, has been with the programme for a decade.

Mukesh, who has served in many capacities on the executive of the Wellington Indian Association, likes the way the programme connects him to the community and the way that it forces him to keep him current with the news worldwide. Neelima sees it as her way of passing on Gujarati traditions and language to the next generation and of giving something back to the wider community.

And then there is something else: all three are having fun.

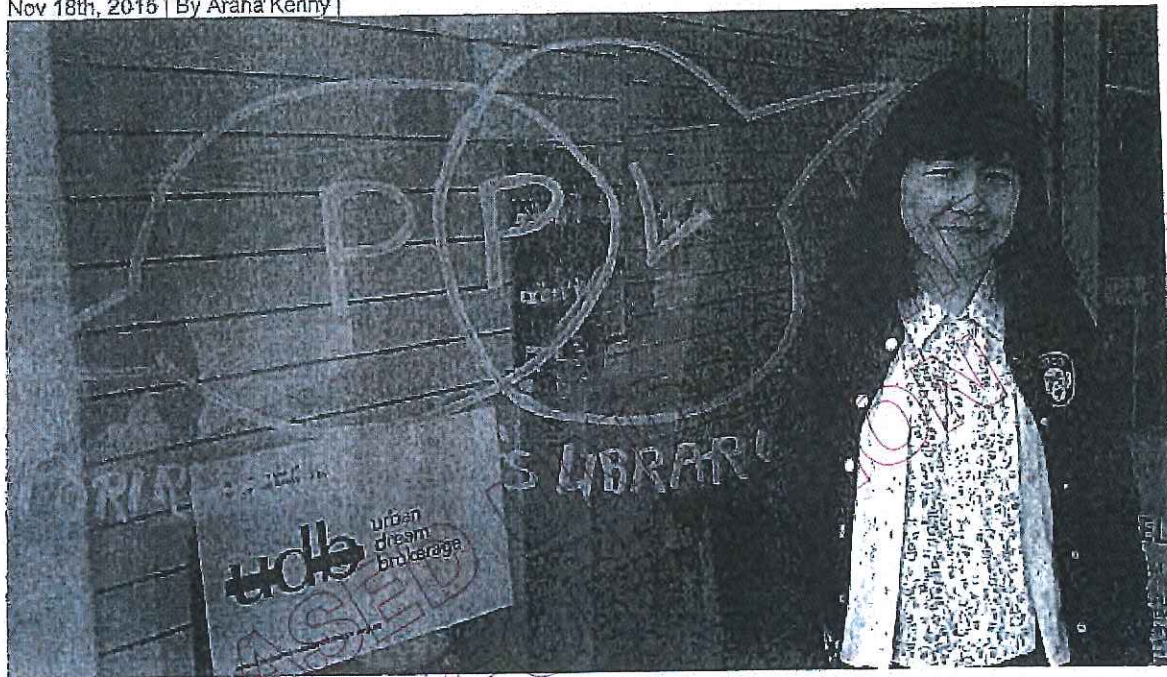
Community access radio has been an ideal platform for the Wellington Indian Association to reach out to its 1600 members and to the wider world, says Mukesh.

1. Planet FM (Auckland)
www.planetaudio.org.nz
2. Free FM (Waikato)
www.freefm.org.nz
3. Radio Kīhāpapa (Hawkes Bay)
www.radiokihappas.org.nz
4. Access Radio Taranaki
www.radiokihappas.org.nz
5. Access Manawatu
www.accessmanawatu.co.nz
6. Coast Access FM (Kapiti/Horowhenua)
coastaccessradio.org.nz
7. Arrow FM (Wairarapa)
www.arrowfm.co.nz
8. Wellington Access Radio
accessradio.org.nz
9. Fresh FM (Nelson/Tasman Region)
www.freshfm.net
10. Plains FM 96.9 (Christchurch)
plainsfm.org.nz
11. Otago Access Radio (Dunedin)
www.oar.org.nz
12. Radio Southland
radiosouthland.org.nz

Porirua People's Library giving locals a voice in November

NEWSWIRE

Nov 18th, 2015 | By Arana Kenny |



PORIRUA People's Library is treasuring locals stories in the community.

Wellington art program Letting Space is declaring Porirua city a Transitional Economic Zone of Aotearoa (TEZA) this month.

Artist and coordinator for Porirua People's Library, Kerry Ann Lee, above, says with the help of local artists they hope to get as many people from the community involved as possible.

"The idea of Porirua People's Library is really a sense of giving people on the ground the opportunity to come and make their own stories," Ann says.

TEZA will run from Saturday until Sunday November 29 at multiple locations in the city.

However, members of the community don't need to wait until the event starts.

They can share their own stories at the TEZA Hub daily at Lydney Place South Laneway in the Porirua's CBD.

"People are telling as much or as little as they like, about whatever is on their mind and really what that is, as it builds up to a larger picture around Porirua," Lee says.



TUNED IN: Wellington Access Radio manager Kristen Paterson helps a member of the public tell his story for Porirua People's Library.

Porirua People's Library is working around the idea of a treasury of stories and how to have that happen, and what support is needed.

Work will develop across the city and come together with gatherings and displays like pop ups, Lee says.

Porirua's youthfulness as a city 50 years young, and its cultural distance to Wellington offers fresh possibilities for discovery.

Artists will work with groups from the community on projects that explore new ways for a diversity of people to work together.

The nine day event is being funded by Creative New Zealand along with Porirua City Council.

Porirua Mayor Nick Leggett says TEZA will work alongside members of the community in a way that has not been done before.

"We are really looking forward for TEZA to be a catalyst for uniting the fabulous social innovation and collaboration that is being done in our suburbs and communities," Mayor Nick Leggett says.

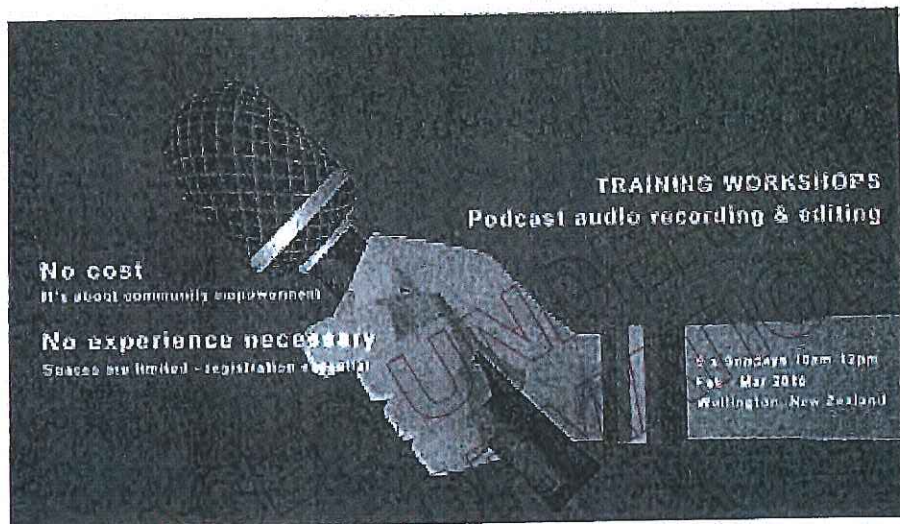
Visitors from around New Zealand, the region and the city are invited to participate in as little, or as much as they like.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Free audio workshops to empower LGBTI community

Posted in: New Zealand Daily News
By GayNZ.com Daily News staff - 29th November 2015

PrideNZ.com is hosting free audio training workshops with a LGBTI community focus.



Over five weekends PrideNZ.com producer Gareth Watkins will introduce participants to various recording scenarios and explore ways of capturing sound, demonstrating audio editing techniques.

The workshops will take place at Wellington Access Radio and will be hands on, giving participants the opportunity to record and edit a short interview. The workshops are open to anyone but will be LGBTI-community focussed.

Timed to coincide with Wellington's Pride Festival - the idea being that the collective will learn recording techniques and then have the opportunity to capture a diverse range of LGBTI voices during the Pride Festival. Participants will then edit the material and create an hour-long radio show that will be broadcast on Access Radio and hosted as a podcast on PrideNZ.com

No experience or equipment is required. However it would be useful if participants had access outside of the workshops to an audio recorder and a computer with audio editing software so they could make full use of the opportunity.

Cost:

FREE, limited to 6 participants.

Spaces are limited so you need to register before the workshops begin. TO REGISTER please email info@pridenz.com. Please make sure you can commit to the five Sundays listed below.

Location:

Wellington Access Radio, 35-37 Ghuznee Street, Wellington, New Zealand

Time:

Sundays 10am - 12pm

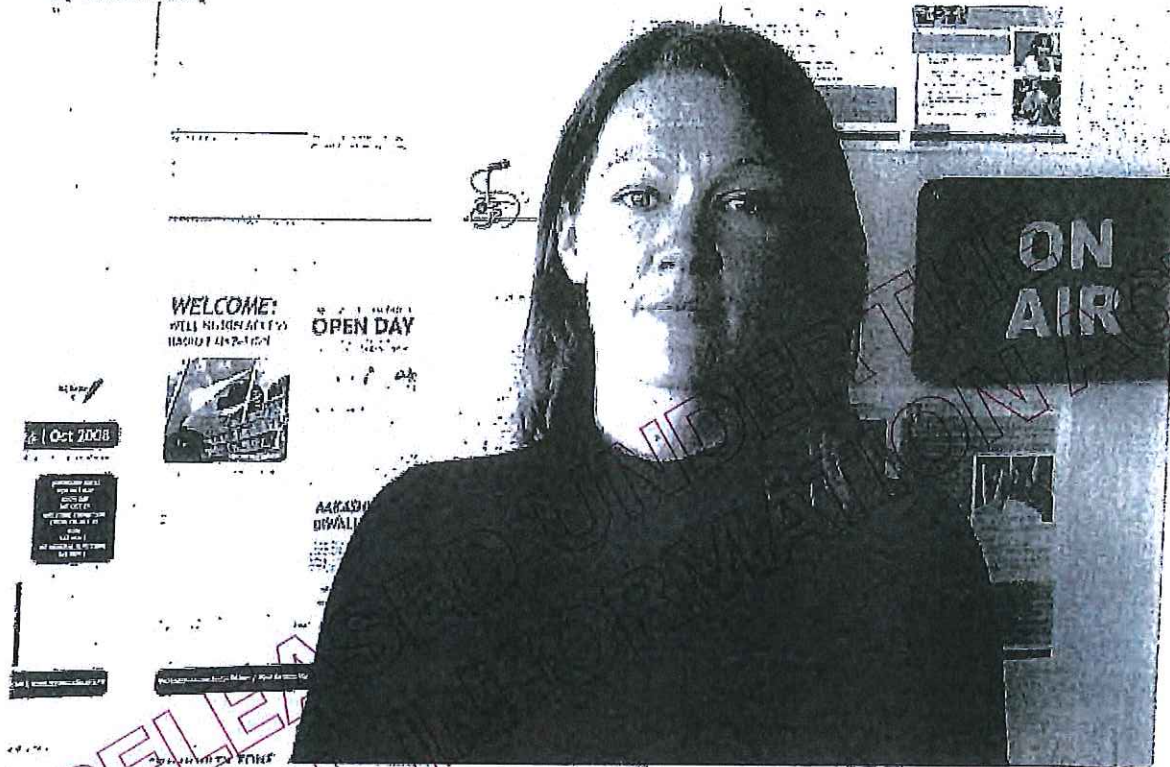
Dates:

21 February, 28 February, 6 March, 20 March, 27 March 2016
(note Wellington's Pride Festival runs 5-13 March)

Refugees can have their voices heard on Wellington Access Radio

NEWSWIRE Sep 7th, 2015 |

By Emma Moody



Access Radio's station manager Kristen Paterson IMAGE: Emma Moody

KRISTEN Paterson wants refugees and other minority communities to hear their own voices in Wellington.

As Wellington Access Radio manager, Ms Paterson says it is important to give minorities the chance to empower themselves and their communities.

"I read a quote once, by an African-American boy, which said 'if you don't see or hear yourself represented, you start to think you're a monster'," she says.

One of the examples she uses to give minorities the chance to use their voice is a relationship with ChangeMakers Refugee Forum.

Access Radio is working with ChangeMakers to give a voice to the "underrepresented communities" in Wellington.

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum is a rights-based, non-government organisation which represents more than 14 refugee-background communities in the capital.

Access Radio is only partly funded by New Zealand on Air, which means people pay for their time on air, making it difficult for refugees to get their voices heard.

The station's additional funding comes from the Settling In grant, which is designed to support the successful settlement of refugees and migrants such as the new group of Syrians who will be arriving.

"The shows we have are by, for and about the different communities in Wellington and give them a chance to give their communities a voice," Ms Paterson says.

Ms Paterson says one of her favourite stories is a girl named Crystal getting to tell the story of her family.

"She got to tell her story, of her family and about her grandmother, and then she got to share it with her family and her community," she says.

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