

ASRA Award 2015

Bridget Griffen-Foley



Figure 1

A Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Professor Griffen-Foley is the founding Director of the Centre for Media History at Macquarie University. Established in 2007 this centre, the only one of its kind in Australia, is dedicated to research on media history and provides various online resources such as links to the Australian Media History Database and the Media Archives Project Database.

As a leading media historian, Griffen-Foley has written a number of publications about various aspects of the print and broadcasting industries. Several are of particular interest to the ASRA community such as the significant text from 2009, *Changing Stations: The Story of Commercial Radio* [UNSW Press, Sydney].

The literature available on the history of Australia radio includes scholarly work as well as reminiscences by program makers and collectors on particular stations, personalities, or radio genres, but this publication by Griffen-Foley was the first that attempted to describe the trajectory of the history of the commercial radio sector as it developed in Australia. This book has provided a valuable resource which brings together disparate parts of the history, including technological developments, government regulation, driven personalities and commercial imperatives in the Australian context.

Griffen-Foley participated in the 2012 ASRA Conference which marked the 90th anniversary of radio broadcasting in Australia. Griffen-Foley's paper *The Birth of a Hybrid: the Shaping of the Australian Radio Industry* presented an overview of the public and commercial history of the industry with a particular focus on how the influences of both the British and American radio models led to the development of

the dual system (before the introduction of community radio - the third sector of the industry - in the 1970s) in the Australian context.

Edited by Griffen-Foley, the 2014 publication *A Companion to the Australian Media* [Australian Scholarly, North Melbourne] contains a massive 479 entries.

Some of the entries are brief but they present an introduction to a range of fascinating topics across the Australian print and broadcasting sectors. Opening this compendium at random leads to discovery of subjects, such as the role of music in the media, the reporting and dramatisation of crime, how listeners became defined as consumers of radio, a history of the podcast so far, and an overview of radio news commentators.

ASRA acknowledges the dedication and scholarly interrogation by Professor Griffen-Foley that has resulted in publications that document our rich and varied radio history. Griffen-Foley's leadership in the field of study of Australian media has established groundwork which will inspire further scholarship and publication into neglected areas of Australian media history. ASRA is delighted to present Bridget Griffen-Foley with the 2015 ASRA Award for her outstanding contribution to the documentation of Australian radio history.

Maryanne Doyle

Figures:

1. Matthew Davies and Bridget Griffen-Foley photograph by Joy Lai