

# A Tribute to Lindy Burns

December 5, 2018 by [Luke Reynolds](#)



It's always hard when your heroes, your favourites, call time on their careers. It took me years to get over the retirement of Peter Daicos. 14-year-old me sobbed almost uncontrollably while watching Dean Jones announce his international cricket retirement in South Africa. The recent announcement from my all time favourite radio host, ABC Melbourne's Lindy Burns, that she is leaving the station, has been equally hard to take.

My ABC affiliation started early. It began with VFL broadcasts in the late 1980s. Tim Lane and 'Smooth' Booth calling games at the mystical sounding Victoria Park, seemingly a world away from my home on a South West Victorian dairy farm. The Coodabeens on Saturday mornings and Sunday nights. In summer it was the magic of the ABC cricket broadcasts. My radio stayed welded to 774 on the AM dial. Pretty sure I was the only kid in my Grade 6 class who listened to the 3LO breakfast program before school.

I stayed loyal to the station over the years. Eventually, in 2005 and 2006, two significant additions joined 774 ABC Melbourne. Richard Stubbs became the afternoon host, while Lindy Burns replaced Virginia Triloli as the drive host. Always enjoyed listening to Virginia, so was very interested to hear how this new upstart from Newcastle would go in her place.

My Uncle Dean was a huge fan of Richard Stubbs. I only knew him from the 'Vicks Vapodrops' commercials. Dean started to text into the show and occasionally get his texts read out. Thought I'd have a crack at it too. After a couple of years we made it a year long competition of who could get the most texts read out on air. Scores were kept. Six packs or wine given to the victor. Stubbsy seemed to like Dean ever so slightly more.

We both texted Lindy as well, but Dean knocked off work at 4pm and stopped listening at that time of the day. I'd always listen until 6pm. Soon enough, I'd entered the realm of being one of Lindy's "regular texters". The exchanges with my now favourite radio presenter became a daily highlight. Lindy would often suggest a theme at the start of each show, and ask listeners to suggest a song to suit said theme. At one stage I had a golden 3 or 4 weeks where no matter what theme she suggested, I could offer an AC/DC song. Comedian Dave O'Neil, a regular on her show, thought he could challenge me. "I'll bet he can't name an AC/DC song about, say, flowers?". 'Whole Lotta Rosie' was my quick response.



In late 2011 came the shock announcement that Lindy was moving from the drive slot to evenings. “Noooooo, I don’t listen to radio often at night” was the vibe of my text. Lindy’s reply was along the lines of “well you’d better start to now”. Of course, I tuned in.

The regular guests made the evenings show a must listen. Rhett Bartlett with ‘Dial M for movies’ on a Monday, lawyer Bill O’Shea and Health Professor Steve Ellen with ‘Writs and Cures’ on a Tuesday, the ‘Legends Bar’ with a variety of guests on a Thursday. ‘What are you doing Wednesday’ became a fun part of the show in recent years. The 8pm Wednesday night music segment has been my absolute, not to be missed, segment. The likes of Chris Gill, Mikey Cahill and Paul Gough, among others made this a most enjoyable segment. But it’s the regular fortnightly music guru, Jeff Jenkins, who has had the biggest influence on my musical listening during the past decade. A huge percentage of Australian artists I’ve followed in recent years have been introduced to me by Jeff on Lindy’s program. I’ve been lucky enough to meet up with Jeff at a couple of gigs in Melbourne, he is the nicest guy you’d ever meet. Extraordinarily generous, he has sent me several books and CD’s, often well before their release. I reciprocate by sending him some quality Prickly Moses beers. It’s a good arrangement.



Lindy Burns with Jeff Jenkins

To paraphrase Spider-Man, with regular texting comes great responsibility. You try and text often enough to be regularly read out, but not too often to be annoying. It’s a fine line. Sometimes your ordinary texts get read out. Sometimes texts that you think are great don’t. Like life, it’s hit and miss. Always enjoy the moments when you get read out.

Talkback-wise, I've only been an occasional caller. It's easier to text. The past 5 or 6 years I've rung up on the final Wednesday night music show of the year to offer my top 5 albums of the year. Always enjoyed doing that.

But perhaps the biggest legacy I'll take out of Lindy's show is that I was made aware of this website and became a part of the magnificent community that is The Footy Almanac. The former 'Almanackery' segment, featuring John Harms, was a fantastic segment that got me started reading the stories on [footyalmanac.com.au](http://footyalmanac.com.au). It took me a couple of years, after meeting John and being urged by him to have a crack at writing for the site, that I finally took to the keyboard and submitted a story. Have loved being an 'Almanacker' ever since, though it must be said that Harmsy was hugely disappointed the 'Luke from Colac' who texted into the show wasn't the great Luke Hodge!

So now we are in Lindy's last week on air at ABC Melbourne. The show is going on the road and incredibly, my favourite radio host, alongside David Astle, Jeff Jenkins and others, will be broadcasting from my house on Wednesday night. I can barely believe it.

Lindy, thank you for your wonderful years spent at ABC Melbourne. For the entertainment, humour and great new music you've brought into our lives. Best wishes to you and your family in what has been an extremely tough year. I will miss your sunny voice, warm nature and fantastic rapport with your co-hosts and guests on my wireless. Thank you for interacting with me, reading my texts, opening me up to the world of the Footy Almanac, great music and interesting people I would not have been exposed to if it wasn't for you and your show. I'm sure the ABC won't keep one of its very best talents off air for too long. All the best for your move back home to Newcastle. As has been the case for the last 13 years, I'm just a text (or a tweet) away. Cheers, Luke from Colac.



Source:

<https://www.footyalmanac.com.au/a-tribute-to-lindy-burns/>