

As editor of the Yankalilla Regional News Paul, it's your turn to talk about your creative side as a musician and graphic designer, although you debunked being labelled a writer.

Apart from a short editorial overview to open the magazine, or a brief report on something, the main wordsmithing I do is a little tweaking here and there. I rely on the different components submitted and don't change contributors' original concepts. My main work is to arrange the pages attractively to appeal to the reader, for the magazine to hang together and make sense. The laying out and placement have to work.

Can you describe the complex job of getting together a publication?

To begin I accumulate the text, notices and opinions into a master content file. The adverts are created in individual files. Based on calculated revenue the main file is created with the budgeted number of pages in multiples of four – a bit like a skeleton. Then the adverts are placed throughout the pages according to where they fit best or what they relate to – like the muscles on the skeleton. Then comes the text and other content and photos – putting the flesh on the body, so to speak. I keep in mind other aspects such as colour or black and white page ratios and staying within budget. I group articles with related adverts. Food and entertainment are generally up front, health and medical together, and land care, natural resources and green topics aligned. Then I slot in the remaining content and hope I haven't missed anyone. A spread sheet to manage indexing to go with page numbers provides a double check. I convert the completed file into a PDF for the press.

To make it accurate and look good requires graphic art skill. But that's just the beginning of the process isn't it?

The finished magazine is put up online, but for hard copies, I send the file to Mercury Printing at Lonsdale. It requires an offset press as the run of over 5,000 copies is too large for digital printing. When that's done, I distribute copies across the Fleurieu. To supply locally and as far as Cape Jervis, Goolwa and Mt Compass, Myponga and Sellicks Beach takes two days. Paying for delivery via post offices adds to the paper's reach but incurs further costs.

And then there's time spent on admin?

Sending invoices and chasing payments, keeping MYOB updated and orderly records for my accountant to file BAS and tax returns - all the usual small business duties. Then the cycle continues, chasing up contributions and advertising for the next one.

What's your education story for your present work?

Largely self-taught and on the job experience. I went to Yankalilla Area School through my primary years, and was in the initial intake at the Annexe. From 1980 to 84 I was a student at Westminster School. In those days, school computers were clunky, little more than word processors, and access limited.

I didn't know what path I wanted to follow but resisted nudges to do pharmacy and for two years studied applied geology at the SA Institute of Technology. Still undecided, I left and worked as a trainee manager in Coles, and then as a night fill supervisor, learned scanning



systems. It wasn't until I returned to work in the family business that I really began to use computers. It was the early days of pharmacy computers running in DOS. Windows came later but when you start working with computers you find yourself dragged along for the ride by the changing technology.

And music has been important. When did that interest start?

I was pushed to do guitar lessons in primary school. Many of Mum's family were musically inclined although Dad's weren't. After a while, I learned to enjoy it. I was exposed to more art and music in my secondary years.

Westminster was known for its music programs, and my interest in guitar grew. I continued with guitar tuition and was also in the school concert band. Each year group had its own band performing for various functions, culminating in a spectacular annual event. There was a music trip to Darwin and other tours. I was hooked on this form of creativity and self-expression.

I started playing in rock bands doing covers and popular stuff when I was at university and then in my working life, performed at Adelaide pubs such as the Duke of York, Exeter, Tivoli, Findon and Tonsley, and various footy clubs too. Music took a back seat for a few years when I married and had kids.

But playing came back, you couldn't let it go?

I never lost my passion for music, and currently play lead guitar in my current band project called *Ultimate Distraction*. My partner Amanda is its lead vocalist and sax and keyboard player. With other band members, we play all over the place, including recent country trips to the Globe Hotel in Mt Gambier and the Hotel Renmark, but also in clubs and pubs in Adelaide and suburbs. *Ultimate Distraction* aims to distract audiences from the stresses of life! Music also enables me to become a different person, playing a part and being a performer. It still thrills me.

Does participating in sport feature in your life?

I've never been that interested in team sports – cricket and footy in high school was it. I have, however, spent many years training in various karate styles, have learned to scuba dive, thrown a few darts, and competed in ten-pin bowling. A few years ago, I joined the Myponga Pistol Club and now enjoy successfully competing in action pistol matches at both club and inter-club level.

Has life or travel taken you beyond the Fleurieu?

I lived in Yankalilla in my youth and in the city part-time for secondary and post-school studies, and for work. Later I lived in Victor Harbor for a couple of years, but I've called Carrickalinga, then Normanville, home for most of my adult years. A born and bred local!

Childhood was rich in adventurous Australian travels, including Tasmania, the Flinders, major cities, snowfields and deserts. Whether in cities or rural areas, we - brother Colin and sister Fiona and I - were exposed to museums, galleries and art. Our mother, Marilyn, was always doing art of some form, and often we would explore interesting creeks, parks, and dunes while she painted landscapes in oils, acrylics, or watercolour.

My own travels were a bit rougher. In 1988 I did a roadie trip in the USA with another guitarist. Looking to buy musical instruments, we covered thousands of miles from California to Las Vegas, across the border into Mexico, to Dallas and Fort Worth, and more, even to Graceland in Memphis. My favourite guitar I use today is one I purchased on that trip. Apart from that, I competed in a karate tournament in NZ and went to Fiji a couple of times for conferences.

Your family has seen many changes locally, not least in this paper.

Yes, my father, John, became the local pharmacist in Yankalilla in 1967 (the year I was born). The Methodist minister approached him to develop a news sheet as a community service. Thus, in September 1970, this district had its first Yankalilla News. My mother Marilyn, drew the cover designs, and people dropped handwritten notes about events, clubs, groups, and sports into a bag by the shop counter for inclusion. A complicated process followed, including a hand-cranked printing machine producing single pages to be collated, hand stapled, and folded for the post office by staff at the pharmacy.

In the 1980s, with the help of a developer, my family built the Normanville Shopping Centre which included our supermarket, pharmacy, and post office. They purchased the newsagency some years later, and when my father shifted to sole premises in Normanville, the Yankalilla pharmacy was rented to a bulk food producer before my mother set up Gallery 88 there. I returned to work in the family business in 1988. My role with the Yankalilla Regional News grew as the publication evolved and I was managing it from the Normanville Newsagency until 2011 when the family business was sold, and I became sole owner of this publication. I have been running it from home ever since.

The district is fortunate to have this handsome monthly magazine which has grown in scope to provide a unique and extensive information service that many areas envy. For years I've received your generous support for various events and groups I've been involved with, and you know my only plea is to ask you limit the length of letters so more people can have a say. But like so many locals, I am grateful for your contribution to our community. Thank you Paul.