

We The People
Program 374 March 30, 2020
We the People 374 The Miracle of Radio - Radiothon 2020



Guglielmo
Marconi



Nikola
Tesla



Heinrich
Hertz



Good Day to You. We often use the phrase the 'miracle of..... this or that'. It's a big statement if you truly believe in miracles and even if not it aptly describes an occurrence as something truly special. Perhaps your newborn or a grandchild is a little miracle or a magnificent sunrise over the sea or the beauty of nature or a genuine gift from God. Some of mankind's greatest inventions and discoveries appear miraculous and incredibly timely. Italian inventor and engineer Guglielmo Marconi born 1874 developed, demonstrated and marketed the first successful long-distance wireless telegraph and in 1901 broadcast the first transatlantic radio signal. His company Marconi Radios ended the isolation of ocean travel and saved hundreds of lives, including all of the surviving passengers from the Titanic in 1912. In 1909 he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics for his radio work. Indeed radio is a miraculous invention with many benefits to its name. Just think about people at the time marvelling at the amazing feat of radio transmission without wires and what they must have thought. At much the same time people believed Edison's phonograph was a machine which connected to the spirit world forcing Edison to publish an explanation in newspapers about the miraculous invention he created. A different time and place but today people still marvel at radio transmission across the room, across the country and the world and to and from the outer reaches of our solar system.

Now zoom forward to 2020 and this month radio 4CRB celebrates 36 years on air just as Marconi envisioned and has brought a marvellous service to the Gold Coast with almost 80,000 listeners tuning in each week. Our wireless station 4CRB has found its niche and produces minor miracles in the community offering entertainment, music, news and a peaceful place to rest from a frantic world. The station is a friend to many and is backed and supported by well over 200 volunteers. In many ways it's truly a modern miracle but we still have bills to pay and obligations to meet. The money comes from donations and the sale of sponsorship segments. No one becomes a millionaire at 4CRB but we still need a few shekels to operate. Without the money we would cease to exist and every year is a challenge but our family of supporters seem to miraculously come through right on time each year and we are all most grateful for that generosity. So this week we are running our annual drive for donations we call **Radiothon**, it's a week of entertainment, prizes, competitions and guests and their stories. In this way it is truly a family event.

Over the years our studios have welcomed a wide range of inspiring and interesting guests from prime ministers to rock and roll stars, from famous explorers to those medico stars who keep us well and keep you informed. Our microphones have heard from environmentalists, the stars of tomorrow and so many marvellous people and their amazing stories. We have welcomed singers and poets and farmers, chefs and charities and those dealing with family crisis. All have been made feel at home and we have tried to help them all. In so many ways this local community radio station, this modest little wireless station helps create minor miracles in the lives of so many people each and every day.....each and every year. I fervently believe it's worth your attention and support and invite you to listen all week and perhaps donate to Radiothon to create another year of minor miracles. You do your bit and we'll do ours and you will be rewarded accordingly and Marconi would be proud of you.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley