

World Record! Bruce Carty on 2CCC FM



In September 1993 DJ Bruce Carty on 2CCC-FM made an attempt on the world record for continuous broadcasting by one DJ. As can be seen from these clippings from the local press he was successful!

WYONG SHIRE
Advocate
Broadcasting feat puts smiles on dials
Thursday, September 23, 1993
CONGRATULATIONS to Bruce Carty of 2CCC FM.
In a marathon effort, Bruce broke the world record for continuous broadcasting last week at Bay Village.
Everybody involved in the effort says Bruce's sheer determination to succeed kept him going when he was on his last legs towards the end.
His focus on reaching his goal was so total that even friends and supporters began to fear for his health.
But achieving what he set out to do was Bruce's ultimate prize.
Along the way, he also achieved his other goal by putting community radio in the record books and bringing attention to the unique station based in Toukley.
BY tomorrow morning we will know if the Sydney 2000 Olympic Bid has been successful.
The excitement building up to the announcement is perhaps equal to an actual Olympic Games and has succeeded in pulling everyone together as a nation.
Let's all cross our fingers and hope for the best.

WYONG SHIRE
Advocate
SERVING THE SHIRE FOR 70 YEARS

World record!

2CCC FM disc jockey Bruce Carty has captured the world record for continuous live radio broadcasting.
Bruce set the new world record of 121 hours and three minutes at Bay Village shopping complex last week.
His marathon stint beat the old record - set by 2GE announcer Mike Sommers in 1986 - by an hour and three minutes. He began the attempt on September 11 at 6pm - he finished, exhausted, last Thursday night at 7.03pm.
Bruce said the first 36 hours of the marathon were easier than he expected. "Then on Monday morning I started to feel very tired," he said.
"I had a few psychological problems, but I had them under control by Monday afternoon. Monday night till about last Thursday I was fine."
"After last I was close to the edge and thinking of quitting. I started to think I'm only doing this as a publicity stunt for 2CCC FM."
"Then I thought of all the people who'd backed me and I told myself I couldn't let them down."
"Thursday morning between 3 and 9 I was hallucinating and not quite with it. I couldn't think as clearly as I should. It was not a matter of staying awake, but my mind wasn't alert enough to cope with panel operation."
"For one three-hour period I used a panel operator to do the mechanical work for me. Incidentally, the guy who held the record before me didn't operate his own panel," he said.
Once he passed the old record Bruce kept on for another one hour and three minutes before he gave it away.
"I'd achieved what I wanted and I knew I wasn't in the mental state to think what I had to say on air."
Bruce's wife took him home and after 1½ hours relaxing he went to bed.
He slept for 14 hours straight, got up for a couple of hours and went back to sleep for another five hours.

DJ Bruce Carty nears the end of his marathon stint



Photos of Bruce in the studio during his record-breaking session. Pictured behind Bruce is his fiancé (now wife) Kaye, photographed as the record was broken at 121 hours and three minutes. Assisting next to Bruce is Carolyn Carr, wife of the 2CCC engineer, Rob Carr. The record was accepted by the Guinness Book of Records and published in their 1995 edition. © Radio Heritage Foundation.

In Bruce's own words: In 1993 I was the volunteer Program Manager for Community station 2CCC in Gosford. We were looking for a high profile publicity stunt to raise our public awareness. I discovered that the current world record for "The Longest Continuous Broadcast By One Announcer", as recognised by the Guinness Book of Records, was achieved in Australia. This was by Mike Summers at 2GF in Grafton back in 1986. Mike was on air continuously for 120 hours.

2CCC sanctioned the idea of attempting to break this record, but no one volunteered so I put my hand up. I contacted Guinness World Records to obtain the criteria necessary to break this record. They replied that they were not recognising this record any longer due to a lack of public interest as shown by the long time lapse. They did, however, send me the essential criteria that had been in place for a record to be recognised. As the proposed attempt was purely to raise awareness of 2CCC, I decided to go ahead. I told no one that Guinness World Records would not recognise this attempt. My rationale was that my much needed support for the stations publicity drive may not eventuate if this was known.

One interesting criteria was that I had to speak live to air at least once every five minutes. This meant that I would usually have to speak after every record as most records were around three minutes. This came about many years ago when a USA station claimed the record after their announcer played one side of an L.P. at a time, having a twenty minute nap during each side of the L.P's.

Several people expressed their concern about possible health problems staying awake for so long. I visited my local doctor seeking any possible consequences. He informed me that there should be no problems with my health but also told me that I would not be able to stay awake for that long. My body would simply give up and go to sleep.

The 2CCC volunteer technicians established a studio in a vacant shop inside the Bay Village shopping centre at Bateau Bay. The record attempt commenced at 6PM on 11-9-1993. Normally rostered announcers were still rostered in order to assist by producing each time slot for me. However, I ended up doing it all myself as most took a break for the week. Listener phone calls kept me going, along with encouragement from all the shoppers who added their support. I also have to mention my girlfriend (now wife) Kaye, who spent many of the hours with me. Local newspapers were very supportive, as was commercial station 2GO who interviewed me twice. Unfortunately, coverage by NBN-3 TV in Newcastle was sabotaged when someone contacted them advising not to bother as I wouldn't make it. But make it I did, with 121 hours and 3 minutes in total. (One of the Guinness World Record criteria was that the record had to be broken by more than one hour to be recognised)

At home I slept until 10AM, was awake for two hours, then slept all afternoon. 2CCC returned to normal programming and I returned to work after another week resting. The only side effect I experienced was being physically weak for a few days. Two months later I saw the new 1994 edition of the Guinness Book of Records in a shop and had a look. Despite them informing me that they were no longer recognising this record, the 2GF entry was still in situ. I then gathered all the relevant paperwork, witness statements, newspaper cuttings etc. and sent them off. As a result, my new world record was published in the 1995 Guinness Book of Records.

THE Sunday Telegraph

March 21, 1999

\$1.20

Did you know

THE world record for non-stop radio broadcasting was set on Thursday, September 16, 1993 by Australian disc jockey Bruce Carty after a stint of 121 hours and three minutes for Central Coast community station 2CCC FM. It remains the mark recognised by the Guinness Book of Records.

