



# Observer Showbiz

Every Week in the Melbourne Observer

## Inside Observer Showbiz:

DVDs and Movies: Sherlock and Rourke ..... Page 28  
 Five Out Of Five: New Wizard Of Oz DVD ..... Page 29  
 Overnighters: You, Me And Gerry Gee Winners ..... Page 30  
 Community Theatre: Cheryl Threadgold's report ..... Page 31  
 Lovatts Crossword: Australia's biggest n'paper puzzle ..... Page 32

Melbourne Observer  
 SECTION 3

# NEIGHBOURS AND HEROES

## TV man Nigel Dick wins award

■ Former GTV-9 General Manager **Nigel Dick** was named as the Victorian 'Senior Australian of the Year', at a presentation on Monday night.

Mr Dick AM, 79, of Camberwell, was instrumental in establishing **Odyssey House** in Victoria, a residential rehabilitation program for people with drug and alcohol addiction.

Since its inception, **Odyssey House** has transformed the lives of more than 8000 clients and reduced the impact and negative effects of drug and alcohol use in Australia.

Mental health expert **Professor Patrick McGorry** was named the Victorian Australian of the Year 2010. He has devoted the past 27 years to youth mental health



● Nigel Dick: Senior Victorian 'Australian of the Year'

## Brain-bothered Bruce

■ Is it true that **Bruce Mansfield** was so upset at being upstaged by stand-in *Nightline* co-host **Marty Fields** last week, that **Bruce** leaned across the studio desk and turned off the comedian's microphone switch?

■ Is it true that **Mansfield** was asking on-air the significance of the **Kokoda Track** in **New Guinea**, questioning why people would want to visit it? This is from the man who once told his radio audience that the **Japanese** bombing of **Pearl Harbour** (1941) was in retaliation for the atomic bombing of **Hiroshima** (1945).

■ And is it true that on Monday night, **Bruce Mansfield** referred to *This Is Your Life* host **Eamonn Andrews** as a **Scot**. Andrews was raised in **Dublin, Ireland**.

## SQUARE EYES with Flip Shelton



● Charlene (Kylie Minogue) and Scott (Jason Donovan) in *Neighbours*

"Where is the knowledge we have lost in information? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?" It is this quote by **TS Elliot** which inspired **Andrew Denton's** series *Elders*.

**Denton** believes that age and experience is much undervalued in today and in a rare break from the television norm, his six-part series focuses on the older and wiser members of our international community and the stories they have to tell.

This is powerful and provocative TV. It is impossible not to be moved, inspired, horrified and totally mesmerised by **Denton's** subjects – some of whom are well known, while others may not. Series two started screening on Monday (Nov. 16) (8pm, **ABC**) and kicked off with a wonderful interview with **MASH** star **Alan Alder**.

Other interviewees include human rights advocate **Helen Bamber** (November 23) writer and raconteur **Clive James** (November 30), Nobel Peace Prize winner **Muhammad Yunus** (December 7), indigenous elder **Rosalie Kunoth-Monks** and leading scientist **Richard Dawkins**.

**Denton** travelled across the globe – from **London** to **New York, Dhaka** and **Alice Springs**, in the middle of this year, to conduct the interviews on his subjects' home grounds.

All of the interviewees are nothing short of brilliant. They give of their time and their thoughts generously but it's **Denton** who shines again. **Denton** is incredibly well prepared and the depth of detail he has gathered – and can recall during the interview is incredible. And like **Parkinson**, **Denton** is only armed with only his wits once the cameras roll. There's no clipboard or auto cue.

At the end of 2008, after six years and over 400 interviews, **Denton** announced that there would be no more episodes of *Enough Rope*. When I interviewed **Denton** at the time he said that making TV gives him so much pleasure and that there's much less stress "when you are not in it." He also takes heed from what he describes as the **Working Dog** philosophy - "Do something great and take a break rather than beat it to death."

Like *Enough Rope*, the first *Elders* series and his various specials, this is classic fireside chat. Relaxed and informal, one gets the feeling of eaves dropping on a personal conversation.

This year **Denton** has been busy behind the camera. His production company **Zapruder's Other Films** has been responsible for the **Golden Transfer, Hungry Beast** and a comedy for **Foxtel** called *:30 Seconds*, but here's hoping he has a change of heart and returns to the front of screen. With a Q-Score (a rating system designed to measure the popularity of personalities) of 30 - second only to **Hugh Jackman**, I am sure I am not the only one who feels this way. Are you listening, **Mr Denton**?

On a much lighter note, a show which is returning to our screens 18 years after it disappeared is **Dallas**, the soap opera which focused on the feuds and fortunes of the **Texas** oil family, the **Ewings**, headed up by **JR**, played by **Larry Hagman**. This newest incarnation of the show will revolve around **JR's** son, **John Ross** and his cousin **Christopher**, but speaking of elders, **Hollywood** studios are negotiating with **Larry Hagman** to return at the age of 78 with **Linda Gray**, 69, to reprise her role as **SueEllen** and **Patrick Duffy**, 60, who played **Bobby** reprising their roles.

Closer to home, someone who has declined a cameo role is **Jason Donovan**. *Neighbours* celebrates 25 years on air next year and producers invited **Jason** to return to **Ramsey Street** to play **Scott Robinson** – the role which launched his career. Somewhat disappointingly, **Jason** who is based in **London**, has declined due to work commitments, despite being quoted as saying not a day goes by without him thinking about the show.

Those who are happy to appear on the show recently include pensioner pin up **André Rieu**, *So You Think You Can Dance* judge **Jason Coleman**, **British** pop star **Lily Allen** and Aussie songstress **Kate Ceberano**. Meanwhile, *Masterchef* judge **Matt Preston** says he won't have "made it" in his mother's eyes until he gets a gig on the show! I reckon the producers might have more luck in securing **Kylie** for a guest role as she seems much more comfortable with recognising *Neighbours* as her career launch pad.

Personally I would have thoroughly enjoyed seeing **Scott** and **Charlene** (as played by **Kylie Minogue**) 'return from Queensland' and what a wonderful way to thank the show and its fans. ● *Elders* with **Andrew Denton**, Mondays 8pm, **ABC**. *Neighbours*, weeknights, 6.30pm, **Channel 10**.