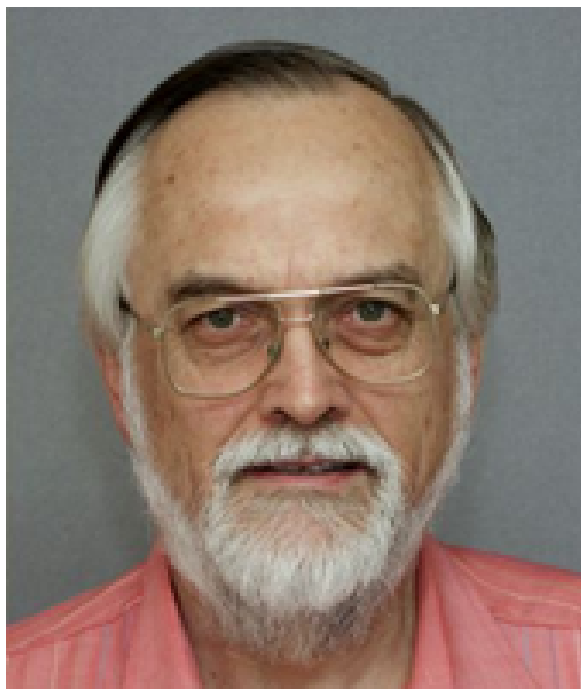




It is with great sadness that Radio 5mbs announces the passing of John Ingham. John was a key part of our station for many years, as Program Production Manager and in many other technical roles. He was always available to help, and always keen to make our station great. John will be very much missed. Thank you to Glen Quick for compiling John's obituary on behalf of 5mbs.



Sadly, John Ingham passed away on 11 August 2026. For a profile a few years ago John wrote of himself:

" It could be said that my whole working career has been a preparation for my volunteering with 5MBS. Apart from my first 4 working years all my life I've been employed in broadcasting-related positions with Channel 7 Canberra, Channel 4 Pt. Pirie, the Canadian and Australian Broadcasting Corporations, and finally with TAFE SA in the multi-media production facility at Light Square in Adelaide where I was employed as Technical Director of all TAFE SA training videos. Most of the time I've been more involved in the Video side of production so it is a nice change to try my hand at Audio production when I retired and joined 5MBS.





John Ingham OAM continued

While I've never had formal musical training, I've always enjoyed classical music, so 5MBS was clearly a good fit for me. When first starting as a volunteer, I noticed that while 5MBS presenters had a great knowledge and love of music with some even being accomplished musicians, few had much production experience. So I chose to concentrate on "back room" tasks to suit my particular skills.

The first task I undertook upon joining 5MBS was recording and editing live musical concerts, and producing CDs of same for the benefit of the performers and for play to air. I then took over supervision of "Music Overnight" which goes to air unattended every day from mid-night to 7am from a computer. Previously, whenever 5MBS presenters were not available, music was provided by means of a "CD Stacker" which limited us to un-announced music from a maximum of 4 CDs.

Over the past several years we have also developed the ability to pre-record complete programs for un-attended play-out from computer to air. This has even allowed us to have "standby" programs always available in the event that a presenter is unavailable. If required, we can now pre-package a full week of programs 24 hours a day - very useful over holidays and the Christmas season!

Recently I also applied my skills to the post-production of station announcements (or "promos"). This involves taking promos recorded by others and loading them into the on-air studio's computer for manual play-out to air by presenters as required.

While I have no ambitions to present my own programs, it gives me pleasure to help others with their programs whenever I can."

John Ingham OAM



Obituary by Glen Quick

John started with MBS about the end of 2000 just at the time it moved to new premises at 165 Hutt Street. Previously it had been operating on a temporary licence from a special studio at 5UV [later Radio Adelaide], the Adelaide University's own AM community station but the separation was required to enhance the chances of getting an FM licence for 5MBS in its own right and not as part of the University. All the technical backup and assistance available at 5UV had disappeared with the move and John was just what MBS needed.

John actually looked after the day-to-day problems with computers and recording programs with Adobe Audition. When MBS first started there were no computers and skilled volunteers were very few. Almost no presenters owned a computer and many could not operate a panel; there had to be a "Studio Officer" who marshalled the LP records and occasional CDs and kept everything flowing and on time. Promos came from a cartridge player and those programs produced in advance came from a reel to reel tape player. The changes of the last 30 or more years have been enormous and there has been likewise an enormous growth in upskilling volunteers and solving the many problems associated with making the station run 24 hours a day seven days a week with minimal down-time. Much of this has come back to John and his ability to get things done and provide various back-up programs so that there is now rarely more than a few moments when MBS is actually silent.

John took his responsibility for the station's reliability so seriously, that he actually had a special room at home filled with computers and radios and internet connections so that he kept a watchful eye on the signal going out at almost all times. And not just from the station at Hindmarsh. He monitored the transmitter [now at Belair] so he could switch the station out if there was a problem there or in the "link" that connects the station to the transmitter.



Obituary continued

If you arrived in the morning and the computer wouldn't start, first step: ring John. Within moments he seemed to be able to fix anything electronic by logging in to the internet and you would see his mouse take over the screen and dart about at lightning speeds until it was announced "all fixed", usually within minutes.

In addition, John served on the Management Committee (now known as "The Board") and also helped on a committee that redrafted the Rules.

John also gifted funds towards installing the many solar panels on the roof of the studios at Hindmarsh with a back-up battery that has greatly cut the power bill.

It's not surprising that John was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours in January 2025.

John will be sadly missed. Glen Quick

John Pederson, a long-time 5MBS classical music presenter who knew John Ingham well, offered these additional personal reflections on John's contribution to the station and Glen Quick's tribute:

" There isn't anything I think I can add. What comes through is John's almost total commitment to the technology at 5mbs.

I found that there was rarely a "short" phone call with John. He liked to explain in detail every aspect of the problem that I was discussing with him. He was very creative and enjoyed trying to solve technological problems. He kept pace with the rapid technological developments that occurred over the time he was at the station, and he tried to keep one step ahead of possible problems."

John Pederson