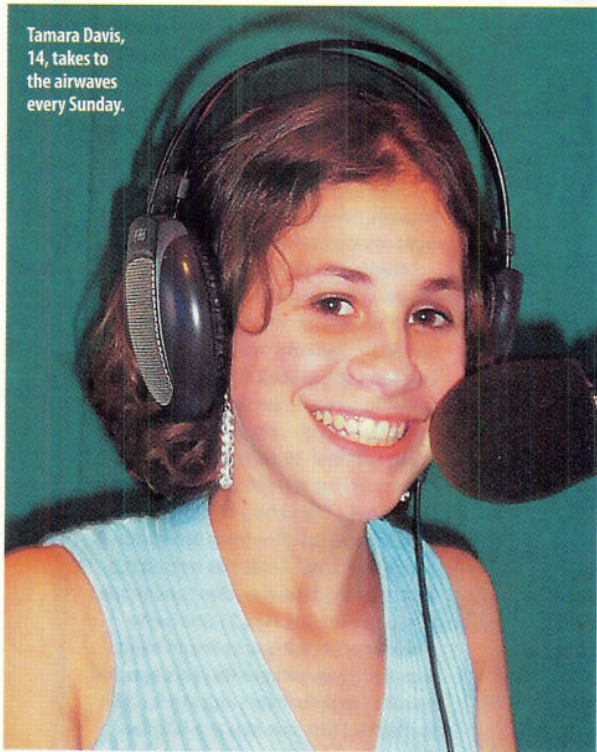


Tamara Davis, 14, takes to the airwaves every Sunday.



of the media. I also do another segment which is horoscopes, and that comes from DOLLY too!

There are two guys and six girls, including me, who run the show: Alyce, Meg, Alexia, Erin and Lauren, and the guys are Alex and Danny. About half an hour before the show starts we get together and look at what we're going to talk about and what topics we're going to discuss on the show. We also figure out what sections we're going to do together, what we'll do on our own and who'll go first, etc.

We talk about movies, music, fashion and sports as well as the big issues that affect teenagers, like sex, drugs, alcohol, eating disorders, depression and suicide, and we sort of have a group discussion on these topics. We hope that, as a result of our

talked to people and went in the relay ourselves, which was really fun. We do a couple of those sort of things now and again to help out the community.

I really love getting feedback on our show. We generally get a few calls each week; they might call to request music or tell us what they want to hear. Sometimes we'll give the number to call and say, "If you want to hear your horoscope, ring up and we'll tell you," so they give us input into the show.

People occasionally call up and say, "I liked what you did a couple of months ago, can you maybe talk more about that subject?" or, "I'm doing a project on this topic, what do you think about it?". Some of my friends who listen, not even my good friends, just some people at my school, occasionally tell us, "That was cool. We were listening and we really enjoyed that show", and hearing things like that is nice.

My parents think it's a fantastic opportunity just to be involved in something this special. When I tell people that I work at a radio station they think it's wonderful and they're really interested, and ask things like, "Do you get to meet anyone famous?". I sometimes get to meet local celebrities,

"I'm 14 and I've got my own radio show"

→ I never thought I could host a radio show until a group of my friends started to get involved with the Hornsby (NSW) community radio station, 100.1 HHH FM, about 18 months ago, at the beginning of Year 8. I decided to get involved too, because it sounded like heaps of fun, as well as a great opportunity to help out the community and have my say on what I cared about.

The first thing I had to do was to become a member of the station, then I started going along on Sundays, which is when our show, *Sounds Like Teen Spirit*, is on. I started by learning how to "panel" the show. That involves knowing how to turn on the mikes and operate the computer system that plays the music and the ads, as the ads are scheduled to go on at certain times.

After a couple of weeks I started getting some material ready. I decided that I'd be the "celebrity gossip girl". I do a few more things too, but that's basically what I handle. I get my gossip by logging onto websites, and I have to admit that I use DOLLY an awful lot, plus magazines, TV and other areas

show, teenage listeners will know more about the issues we've discussed. We try to give information on what they should do if anything like this happens to them, who to talk to and things like that.

We focus on the big areas like the US, Australia and the UK. If we're talking about music and movies, we look at what's happening in America, 'cos that's where a lot of that stuff is happening.

I'm working on a big project right now. I'm going to get the community to vote on their favourite songs, celebrities and movies of all time, then I'm going to tally their votes to get a huge perspective. We'll devote a show to playing the most popular songs and talk about the most popular movies.

As well as just having our regular time slot, which is on Sundays from 4pm to 7pm, we sometimes broadcast live, like we did at the charity event, The Cancer Council Relay, when we broadcast live from Rolfe Park. We set up at the relay – we had a stage made and set up all our equipment and some seats in front of where the relay was going on. For about half the day we did the show live and

but that's about it! We try to kick-start local bands, so if they want a bit of publicity we might interview them. We also interview people in the community like councillors and we interviewed someone from *Home and Away* once!

What I like the most is that I get to express my opinion on things I care about, things that really matter to me. What we're doing at the station is trying to get the youth of Australia to have their say and to talk about things that they want to talk about. We try to give them a place where they can listen to our show and be happy and enlightened on the subjects they want to hear about.

In the future I'd like to work for a magazine. But I've always wanted to be famous in some way, to have a career in radio or cinema, so I'm thinking a bit more about the big picture now. I'd like to see where radio takes me in the near future. It's volunteer work, so we don't get paid – but we don't need to because the experience and opportunity it gives us are worth much more.

As told to Christine Knight