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WELCOME VOICE



Back on radio

Mrs. (Mamma Lena) Gustin, famed voice of Australia's Italian community and a resident of Bankstown is back on the air again — much to the delight of her regular listeners.

Early this year she completed 14 years of broadcasting with radio 2CH — which she

began only three years after emigrating to Australia with her husband, Dino, in 1956

She has now begun another programme with radio 2KY from Monday to Thursday nights each week at 7.15 pm.

In 1968 for services to the community Mrs. Gustin was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire, by the Queen.

The previous year she was given the second highest honour in Italy by being conferred the Cross of the Cavaliere.

Mamma Lena, one of the pioneers of ethnic broadcasting in Australia has been heard throughout the country regularly by more than 200,000 listeners.

Her programme on 2CH, "Arriverderci Roma", has provided information about the new country while still remembering the old.

Gives news

In the programme, she dispensed news from Italy and gave sound advice to new Australians as well as running a hit parade session.

She has been recognised as a tower of strength in the uniling of new Australians to their new home.

The leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr. B. M. Snedden, when he was Minister for Immigration referred to her as a "bridge between the New World and the Old".

Mr. Snedden said at the tenth anniversary of her 2CH programme in 1969 Mrs. Gustin had given a wealth of information on Australian laws and customs and, in consultation with Commonwealth and State Departments, had advised an untold number of settlers on their problems.

Mr. Snedden said Mamma Lena, as a voluntary delegate for the National Association of Families of Emigrants also interpreted for new arrivals, took them to hospital when they were sick, and helped in many other practical ways.

State Member for Bankstown, Mr. N. J. Kearns also commented at the time, "Mrs. Gustin has been an outstanding advocate of assimilation.

"Without people like her the problems facing new arrivals to our country would be extremely difficult if not insurmountable."

Mamma Lena and her husband, Dino, who produces all her radio shows, do much of the research and background work at their home in South Terrace, Bankstown.



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