

1973

SEE OUR
SUMMER
SELECTIONS



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14 YEARS ON AIR



"Mamma Lena", the voice of the Italian programme on one of Sydney's commercial radio stations, has left the air after almost a decade and a half behind the microphone — but not for long.

Pictured with her (above) is Archbishop E. Cunial, a Vatican City specialist in migrant affairs, who looks in amazement at the five-foot diameter cake unveiled at Mamma Lena's recent farewell party.

Six hundred people turned up to say "Arrivederci" — for the time being.

Archbishop Cunial, who was a special guest at the party, was in Sydney on his way to a Eucharistic Congress in Melbourne.

Although radio station 2CH has cancelled its foreign language programme for administrative reasons,

Mamma Lena hopes to be back on the air soon on another station.

In private life she is Mrs. Lena Gustin, but for the past 14 years her voice has been familiar to members of the Italian community all over Sydney.

In the early days her programme took up several hours of broadcast time each day, but as time marched on the Italian programme and other ethnic

broadcasts gave way to the pop-music scene.

Now, as 2CH goes into round-the-clock operation, the ethnic programmes have been axed to keep operations more continuous in content matter.

Until recently Mamma Lena was on the air for about two hours each weekday evening playing Italian music, presenting newscasts in Italian and keeping her listeners up-to-date on the social goings-on.

"We're trying to continue the same programme on another station," she said.

She hopes to be back on the air — but on another wave-length, in about a week or two.

**"MAMMA LENA"
TAKES THE CAKE**

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