

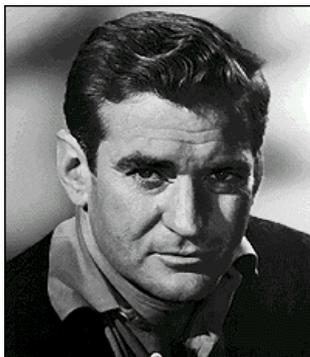
TARZAN RADIO SHOW AUSTRALIA

IAN CLARKE

On 11JAN08 Jeff Kenney wrote:

“Thanks, Ian, for your effort on this and all the good info. Now, since you're in Australia, can you hook us up with info on that Tarzan radio show out of your country? :-) I must admit, I've been curious since I read about the Australian Murray comics (Tarzans, I mean), which look really neat. Are those readily available in Australia, or are they as hard to come by as they seem to be here?”

Jeff: I believe the Tarzan radio program, was broadcast throughout Australia during the 1940s, 1950s and (on some regional radio stations in the early 1960s--). I



I listened to it religiously when I was a boy in the late 1950s and early 1960s (I am now 55). When I heard it, Tarzan was played by Rod Taylor (who later became

a Hollywood leading man), Jane Porter was played by Marcia Hathaway, and the series announcer was Roger Climpson. I believe some of the early programs were re-broadcasts of US radio shows. However, in the 1950s programs were produced and performed by Australians. So far as I'm aware these programs are not easy to find. The Australian National Film and Sound Archives (ANFSA) has some holdings of these shows but by no means a complete set. The ANFSA website has a listing of old time radio in its holdings at:

http://www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/docs/collectionguide_australianradioseries1930-1970.pdf

The entry for the Tarzan radio shows is as follows:

TARZAN

Series: 143575

Contributors: *Walter Pym (PDR), Jim Bradley (PDR), Nigel Lovell (PDR), Brian Wright (SCR), Russell Writer (SCR), Artransa (PDC), Roger Climpson (NRT).*

Cast: *Rod Taylor (Tarzan), Lloyd Berrell (Tarzan), Ray Barrett (Tarzan), Marcia Hathaway (Jane), Pamela Page (Jane), Joan Landor (Jane), Nigel Lovell, Charles 'Bud' Tingwell.*

Label: *Artransa*

Episodes produced: *642 (at least)*

Broadcast details: *1954- ; Monday to Friday on 2GB at 6.00pm.*

NFSA Holdings: *Selected scripts held*

I do not know if many of the Tarzan radio programs have been converted by ANFSA into a digital format - but I doubt if they have been. The last time I went to ANFSA to research these programs (some years ago now) there were some programs in the holdings, but they were held on “wax” or vinyl disk. In 1997 ANFSA issued a 2CD set entitled “Heroes of the Radio Waves – Australia’s Radio Favourites From The 1930s, 40s and 50s”. The set contained 2 Tarzan radio shows – Tarzan Episode 3 and 4, totaling almost 25 minutes, with Rod Taylor as Tarzan. These are the only episodes of the Australian Tarzan radio show that I have in my collection.

TARZAN COMIC BOOKS

There were 23 issues of the Murray Tarzan comics, each of 96 pages, published between November 1980 and April 1983. The comics were staple bound, with colour covers and black and white interior art, on fairly poor paper. Most of these comics were in a larger format than normal comics. The content of these comics wasn’t Australian-produced, but I believe came from a range of different sources, with several different artists and writers. The stories are reprints of material first published somewhere else. I have only 14 of the 23 issues in my collection. To answer your question, the Murray Tarzans are not easy to find in Australia either. My experience is that when they can be found, often they are in poor condition, due in part to the fragility of the paper. Bill and Sue-On Hillman’s excellent ERBZINE site (Volume 0789) has

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HTTP://WWW.ERBLIST.COM

an article on the Murray Tarzan comics, at the following link;

<http://www.erbzine.com/mag7/0789.html>

Hope this information is useful.

Cheers

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