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**Bro. GRAHAM CYRIL KENNEDY, AO.
(15 February 1934 - 25 May 2005)**

An Australian radio, film and television performer. He was known in the 1960s as "The King" and to a younger generation as "Gra-Gra". He was a great star on Australian television, later rejecting fame and publicity, spending his remaining years in seclusion.

Graham Kennedy was born in Melbourne and grew up in Balaclava. His parents divorced and he was raised by his grandmother. His first job, after leaving school early was as a news runner for the Australian Broadcasting Commission on their Radio Australia shortwave service.

His next work was at radio station 3UZ, initially in the record library and later as a panel operator for "Nikky", Cliff Nicholls, a popular radio personality, who was a big influence on Kennedy, who would later use "Nikky's" style on his own television shows.

In 1950 "Nikky" put Kennedy, then a teenager, on air with him on 3UZ and following "Nikky's" death in 1956 Kennedy was briefly partnered by Happy Hammond. By May 1957 Kennedy was appearing on television and in 1961-62 he presented a morning radio programme on 3AK with Bert Newton.

In 1970 he was on 3XY and from June to December 1975 he appeared on 3LO before going to 3DB in September to November 1976.

He also recorded a series of eight 30minute radio comedies for the ABC under the title, *Graham Kennedy's RS Playhouse*, written by Gary Reilly and Tony Sattler and broadcast between 11 August and 23 September 1979. The "RS" apparently was taken from the names Reilly and Sattler but also has another connotation in Australian English. Tony Sattler was married to the actress, Noelene Brown, and they were close friends of Kennedy

Graham Kennedy also became involved in Sydney radio station 2DAY FM, owning 10 per cent of the station when it was launched in 1980 and from 1981 presented a three-hour programme of music and comedy on Sunday mornings.

It is certain that Graham Kennedy is best known as a television performer, having been described as a product of the television era.

When the medium first came to Melbourne in 1957, he was chosen to present an evening show, *In Melbourne Tonight*, also called, *IMT*, for GTV9 beginning on 6

