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General content note today. So Q life including switchboard in Victoria and Tasmania 1800, 184527 rainbow door 1800-756792. We opened with John Farnham heading Little River Band playing to win and sending our best regards to John Farnham, to improve his health. And I can't wait to get along and see the Bio doc. Oh, but there's also a very important reason why we opened up with the little river bands Playing to Win because it was the theme song, the entrance song for my guest today, I am hugely excited to introduce from the northern beaches of Sydney, now at a healthy weight of 84 kg he is the author of, to my knowledge, the first Australian wrestling autobiography. Dazzler Dunlop inside my squared Circle by Ken Dunlop it is my pleasure to welcome to the 3 CR airwaves Ken Dunlop.

Good afternoon. Thanks so much for your time today. Ken I'm just, it's just absolutely awesome to have you on. I first saw that you'd put out your autobiography inside my squared circle on Shawline publishing a couple of months ago and just raced to the website for Shoreline to buy it,

loved reading it. I might start by saying what prompted you to write an order autobiography when you did.

After I retired every month or every couple of months for a beer and just have a chat and we'd all sit around and I'd always tell stories and quite a few of the guys said, look, you slider bloody book,

So is in the back of my head for probably about 10 years or so. That one day I ride it, but when I was working, I didn't have the time obviously to do that and I had to retire when I was 56 mainly due to bad Health at the time.

And the first thing I thought of while, but all his spare time now, I'm going to write a book and it took me two years. It's a lot harder than mmm. You think it is. So and I didn't the old fashioned way. I did it by writing down everything with pen and paper. Your dare I say old school. No, I'm with you on that, what happened to those facsimile machines but and telegrams that no, I

I think that, you know, I look, I'm a bit the same, I prefer to write things out by hand. I can relate to that very much and it just helps clear your head and it is the whole activity of it rather than thumping, it out on a keyboard or something like that. And so, there is so much there, go for it because my memory is not that great at times. My short-term memory is pretty.

And that's for more concussions. I had throughout my career so I sort of put it aside and then I've come back and I've just been watching something on TV or talking to someone and that's a one word. Nothing, huh. And then I remember another story about that and it's just again, could be just from one. Would someone say so I'd go and add that to that chapter. Then I to go rewrite the chapter again, just to sort of fill it in and and this kept happening and happening and even now

Now, after books being published, there's four or five things I've remembered since which I've written down. But they should be in the book but they're not, of course, but yeah. It's just amazing how certain people can just talk about something and it'll bring up another memory so which is interesting how the brain works. Well yeah it keeps sort of uncovering things, you dig a bit deeper and dig a bit deeper, that's how it happens. Now, I just said, was one thing which I may be mistaken on

My knowledge is the first Australian, professional wrestling autobiography, I'll say to your knowledge, because I would have thought. What? To my knowledge Esther's been fewer Australian books but not, not an autobiography. Yeah, look as a long, a long time fan who grew

up watching world championship wrestling and went to Festival. We're in Melbourne, I'm a little saddened to think I'm it's great that this is the first but I think there could be more autobiographies or will say authorized biographies. And I mean,

The people of that era come to mind which I want to talk about. But let's now go all the way back to the beginning 1960 where you entered the world and sort of caught on to wrestling pretty quickly. Tell us about the early memories for you before you started training of what wrestling meant to you and how it felt for you. Well, we lived up in Maui up and gets a end. Yep. Which is a beautiful part of Victoria? Yep. And I think we'll Camp. Traversing started in,

I'm 64. That's it. Yeah. And I used to come to your Lawns Kern at all once every. I think it's every six weeks or eight weeks. And so when I was probably four years old, mum and dad could mum was a massive wrestling fan. Hmm. We go to show it code at all and just to see these guys and in that one massive guys and and you only course the great Jack little who yes later became a good friend of mine.

Sounds pretty hoped from the age of four I suppose. And then when we moved to Melbourne, but I was 10 or 11 mum and I save going to Festival Hall every Saturday night and

They were just the best times like the King Curtis Marquel on Waldo. Von Erich, although, for the guys is just incredible and levers, and every week with sold out, it was 6,000 7,000 people, every Saturday night, we had permanent seats Boston on the for file or a from the front of the aisle with goodies come out, and it's just, just awesome days. There's a great time to be a young person.

Well, look the okay, you know, it's your interview but I have to say I can relate because I have a favorite moment from Festival Hall where I got to see australasian Champion Ron Miller take on then world champion. The now late and always great. Harley Race was my childhood highlight. Yeah, an amazing. It was an amazing time and so many other great memories of it. And of course, will championship wrestling on Saturday and Sunday at noon on TV. And so you just kept connecting and

Acting more and obviously going every week, you know, perhaps the people in the industry so to speak would take perhaps take notice of you and Mum.

Yeah, we got to know a few of the wrestlers wives and some of the girlfriends and

So that sort of got us needing a couple of like, John Schneider was the first guy I met and fam, Rossi. They were the first to probably and just getting to talk to them. There was probably burger patty Ryan. Her some was a long boy at first of all. So I got talking to him and then I met Patty to him as well. So just get here, getting to sort of having a little chat with these people and taking photos with

It was just a really great time, and they knew the passion we had for it and we get there like 6:00 so we can see the wrestlers turning up. Yep. In their taxis and all the international stars and yeah, I guess just blows your mind. Like, they're all pretty nice, guys. To talk to not stand offish. Even the heels if when I got there really, that sort of

Take photos, but a lot of them wouldn't sign things. Especially like people have broken our who supposedly couldn't talk. So remember, he actually chased me around, first, of all, once he, he was going to be actually yell, they had on the effing going to kill you because I gave uh, class about 13 or 14 or suppose and he chastens lucky. The belt is actually have a copy in between and yeah, when he said this, let me guess.

If we're going to kill you or for you can talk, he broke kayfabe and the following week and you went straight to where I was sitting, but lucky enough.

I've moved to the back just in case. So you are already getting an idea of what it, excuse me of what it was to be like to learning. Some very will say very basic steps even if you weren't doing anything in ring before you even decided to really get into the business you it was clearly it now in the DNA for you. Yeah. Definitely. And what sort of got you live up to the next step to say? Yeah I'm not just going to be a

A spectator kid chased around the rate of by Brute Bernard. But what took you to the next level? What said I want to really, really go for this. When I was when I turned 16, I was talking with Sam Rossi and Don Snyder and they told me they had a wrestling school in North Melbourne called NBC's Jim. And they said, but I like to learn to wrestle.

And I didn't even think of asking mother's permission. First I said yep. And again cuz I was underwriting. The in those days you had to get permission from the parents to try and so sad what's actually come out with the way a house and have a chat to moment dad, which is really nice of him and he said he'd teach me all the right things.

And I when the following week and that was such a nerve-racking experience because the owners were, there was Sam Rossi, John Schneider Fred Burger, Casey Miller, and Jim

Damaris, medical Swedberg, and case, you know, of, were baddies and the other. And so is John, Schneider, the others with goodies and I used to give them hell when I was Kid.

And when I walked up the stairs, there was a manager of the team. Coretech Clark is just a sensation along guy, John Schneider, and Casey over the first two of the bench and couldn't make Jon quite a few times at this one Hawley, straightaway, recognizing shook, my hand. And when I saw Casey and Fred Nolan my really pack up, and I know they're going to remember me, is that annoying little kid. You know, mmm, but they were pretty good though. They were really good. So

So,

Even steer very nerve-wracking but it was exciting. Oh, I can imagine, you know, it's actually the in there. I mean, you know because you know as fans we admired these people so much and then you sort of where you're a bit on now, getting on the inside, so to speak. Well what can you remember some of the early training? What you know? I mean it's all very well to beach, you know, run around the arena. That's all very well. But you are now hitting lets you know, a

Row of pine boards covered in mats which is slightly different physically and mentally can you, can we explore that a bit more? What was that like early on? It's really hard?

Whenever you were in wrestling, you should be cobbler in any holes until you learn how to fall. Yep, and falling is definitely the hottest. You got to do all your different break. Falls is forward by called it for ya. So that takes probably, at least a month. Sometimes six weeks, just to learn how you to fall properly.

And,

Casey Miller was a pretty tough guy. If you're if you're stuffed up, it really boot up the ass hard or smack you around the back of the head. Whoa, and it yells me. And said I was pretty because he was a big man. He was like yeah, probably 20 is 20 stone and be quite a big guy. And I was only as a 16 oz only very small. So pretty frightening but you just

Copped it all what the first couple of weeks. I had skin off my elbow skin off my knees.

I will the mesons and you go home if you're sharing your job sting, like hell, but again, I just loved it and I just kept going and I had a got a mattress in the back yard and on the nice. I didn't train, I don't go in the backyard for an hour and just break, we'll break. We'll break ball in the

backyard every night. Yeah, which I'm not. I will do invoke the WWE sort of perhaps don't try this at home. I think, at least now try to use gym mats

It's or karate mats for something might be the go. I'll know. I'm happy to be corrected on that. Oh, God. I hope it's at the right firmness of mattress but I imagine the thing is, I'm no psychologist but I think we're at bodies don't want us to fall and you've got to train yourself to want to fall. So there's the psychological aspect in there as well. Yeah. Well the very first night but not the first night after a couple of weeks, okay. She told me you're in the top row and do a forward break for Just Landing.

On this on your stomach. Whoa. And of course, I did it a little winded myself. Something chronic and I was on the floor rolling and paying trying to get my breath. And he just stood there in the elderly and smack me. Very, they can head to you did a wrong, your stuff that I get out there and do it again.

And I'm still trying to get my breath. And so the second time off all, I've got to get this right? And I've got a right, so that's the house that that's how it was back then. Yeah, it certainly, it certainly seems like a rabbit approach. And look, I do remember. Casey Miller. I mean, even from afar, I, if I can be dry him, respectfully, dry humor, and his sideburns were scary enough back then, if I remember rightly, he was a

Definitely a big big man and but you you push through, you got through you kept going along. And finally came the moment for your will say full you know, in-ring debut and tell us about that night. What was if you can remember anything about what was going through your mind, sort of before during, or just after leading up to, it was a young guy from Melbourne called Rob Magnus.

Great guy and we started pretty much of the same time and after we train for probably over a year they said we were ready for our first match. But for some reason, they said they can only push one, one guy. So they invited Jack Hill to come down to the gym.

And I mean, it's just a huge huge on start. And so, he sat in spoke to both mom and I and then we did all our normal training, probably two and a half hours while break Falls roles in all our regular holds and then we did like a 15 15 minute match. Yeah. And they said to Jack,

Which one do we push? Any went little Kenny. So that was a massive, massive thrill

So then we debuted on the 11th of August 1978 at the, what Sonia our cell Club in Belton. Yep. Happen. The East and

It was, yeah, we just had to do a 1551, a match and Jack was the compare. So Tony Marino was the referee, mmm. So he was a great. He was a fantastic help because he's always talk to you throughout the match and yeah, just going fantastic. I was so, so nervous before end, and I was trying to cut out all the other boys in the dressing room, but of course, also in the dressing room. You had people like Rocky Road Narrows

There's Roberts all these peoples all these people aren't growing up watching and I wanted to go and talk to them all and to say how excited I was to meet them and of course the great Maria Malone cool. Indeed, I had to sort of try and focus and I want until bad for my music started. When the music Started, that's when the Panic set in.

But so I just put my head down walking to the ring, looked at my family and then I felt okay. And and it's just there's 15 minutes went so quick. Yep we did make a stuff up, right. The very beginning but we just got up, brushed it off and just went straight into it and then just basically went from me. Yeah, I'll look, it is amazing. And I mean it's you know, I can understand just you know, I gon meet wrestlers and

You know, the interval when they're signing autographs or pictures or whatever or t-shirts and it is that I might look as someone who it's very hard to not sort of go. I'm your biggest fan or something because, you know, there is that sense of admiration and for what they do and how much they, now, that you're putting your bodies on the line to entertain people, which is pretty amazing in itself just to say, we've had a one of our recurring listeners come in Kaylee.

Said used to the doing break Falls when learning Judo as a kid, which was fortunate given, how Porsche horses, the rest that, but at least you enjoyed something of it. But yeah. So there you are underway and of course there was unfortunately. Well, there's a few things about 1978. One of the saddest things was, it was unfortunately the end of the, you know, that 20th century Golden Era for Australian wrestling. The world championship wrestling are after it. Went off TV which won't must have been a bit of a

An emotional letdown for you after it's been so much a part of it for so long. I just started in the after the August 78 and the fish in the December, so I never got a chance to appear at, first of all, all at that time, if it got another year, I would have definitely got a chance. But again, I didn't realize not in 1985, I get a chance to wrestle their six more times. So, that was against just another dream. Come true, my dream.

When I first started. Yeah, any meddling wasn't like any meddling and Johnny Gray who my two favorite wrestlers and

I've always imagined I'd love to wrestle can measure and accessible with Jack little. That was, that was sort of my dream and it came true Navy fire. So which just blows my mind because a lot of dreams don't come true. So, but well, very, very, very true and just fairly standard to perhaps, not with resting. I'll just mention Jack little legendary commentator, and part of Australian wrestling and the subject of a 1985.

Five recording by a group headed by Andrew Duffield formerly of the models called forearm joltin, famous for his catchphrases of oh brother that's all there is this there isn't anymore and this Saturday night Festival Hall and Ken Medellin. The lightweight champion who you know I remember very very well an amazingly talented wrestler, the perhaps a modern wrestling fans, the equivalent more of what's now sometimes called the cruiserweight division in some of the bigger promotions worldwide.

And a guy who could play it, I have an image in my mind of when Andre the Giant hood and was in a Battle Royal. And I think Ken medlen was the second last and there's image in my mind is can trying to whip on track to China across the ring? Yeah that's right. Yeah and it's funny when Andre said on Ken's chest the actually broke some Ken's ribs oh God and he's later Larry idea and Rob Miller they used to bring on dry out every now and then in Sydney to

Boat shows around the clubs and I remember funny enough, the first night, listen George please covering or was that Andre walked in? And you're such a lovely be anywhere up to every single guy should be a hands and said, hello to everyone. And you saw Kenny, medlen and Meadowlands that I'll give a you big bastard and it's really funny. He remembered breaking his roots.

He said, sorry, how are you? And they had a good old laugh in the chat which was just great to sort of see all that happening in the background. It's just unbelievable. Yeah, look, I do remember Kane as being The Cheeky heal, but he certainly had the in-ring ability to back it up and of course, what can you say about Andre the Giant, the, The Gentle Giant and I who, you know, it was just such one of the more for people who aren't into wrestling. One of the more sort of well-known,

People in wrestling, people remember him and I feel like I've got to say this week, you know that sadly this week, of course, we lost Superstar Billy, Graham during the week and just short of his

80th birthday than, you know, that the wrestlers of that era who all know Andre was amazing, that Superstar was ahead of his time so much in what he did.

Well, he read people like Ric Flair. He was, he was the fleeing before flare type of things and they all copy a lot of his

During pregnancy has a big presence beforehand. One of the biggest personalities which again, it's one thing when you learn wrestling you don't learn or you can't teach us those. The psychology is the biggest part of it. Yeah. And people like, like your flares. You

Billy Graham was an all those little people, the ring psychology. If you can master that, you can see, you can be a crappy wrestler and get away with it. If you've got

Being psychology. Yep. You can't do it the other way around. If you can be the greatest wrestler,

And there's been a few over the years who have had great. Great, technical abilities. That's got no personality. They've got nothing, so they're not remembered. Just you see them and you go oh wow great. But then you forget them once they're off the show, you forget about okay this is a pure like a knife but I don't want to name the guy fair enough.

Just forgettable. Yeah, it's an interesting thing because, you know, chatting to a few people. When I, when I do. I mean, you know, I've understood, you know, why understandably for your, I'll go with the, in the words in-ring performers. You know, people think the emphasis has to be on the physical and many. So I'll work out a character later. I'll work out how to do promos later. But you know I don't you know in the end as you say you've got to have the other side. You want to drill in a little more to that psychology and

The other part of it. I'm just I have to say General genuine, genuine Curiosity, on my part.

The oddest copied, when I, when I started, like I'm again because I was a massive wrestling thing. I looked at all the different resources and as I said, Medellin been trying to go and what to favorites. So at the beginning of sort of tried to copy my style from Johnny Gray. Yep. And I tried to throw in

Two bits of can metal as well. And then the guys who I was training with, I tried to learn their personalities, their ring Sykes, and just to understand. Because again, the something you can't

teach, you've got to pick it up yourself and it takes, it takes a good couple of years to sort of to fully understand.

Yeah, but then once you once you get it and you've got to know from the start you got to have something otherwise the people if you haven't got something to offer to people won't take. Yep. Well it is, it is about, you know, sort of popping the crowd and there is that aspect to it as well as well as the for those who are going physically full-on physical in ring there is that aspect to it. Definitely a great tag team partner here in Sydney Wayne roasted pig food. Yeah.

Yeah, and we started teaming up in 1981 and we team right through or 1996. And we had a few breaks in between where we fuse of each other because just depending on what the promotion's - the time, but even kill again, we always try to add something new nearly every match as in those days, because there's no internet. Hmm. We used to get tapes from overseas and

A friend of ours in Melbourne.

Had a converted machine. So we get takes from Japan. Will you taste from America, she'd convert them or read, watch him. And we'd study them, and we'd watch the tape 10 times, 20 times to try and pick up something new.

And so, we tried to because we had regular followers in Sydney who to go to the clubs, every club, we go to that, be insane. So we always try to do at least one new thing every match to keep them surprise as well. Yep. So even after all those years we still learning and adjusting to what was happening at the time.

Which, you know, like anything you've got to keep growing. The I got to keep got to keep learning got to keep expanding their I quite Undertaker's Hall of Fame speech. Never be content. So you've got to keep rolling and it kept going with it. You know, I look, I know you and I could talk wrestling all day, but this is a program about lgbtiq, a plus issues. So before I get too far down a rabbit hole 1978 was a significant year because in Australia, of course.

Course, it was the first Mardi Gras, which wasn't all glitter covered back. Then by a long way and you, as well as loving wrestling, you had something else going on in your life and as per the, you know, the back cover of dazzler Dunlop inside my squared Circle, put out by Shoreline publishing. You were someone who was openly gay who is openly gay and you're having to start having to think about that as you sort of move.

Your late teens? Can do you want to talk a little more about that part of life? Yeah, it was a pretty scary time because when I was 16, I realized that I was gay. Yeah, and it just wasn't talked about back in those days. There were no help lines as no.

No one there to help. I didn't know anyone who was gay.

So I sort of kept it all hitting in and because my life was, it was sort of read, I was so happy and so excited that I was learning the wrestling side of your life. I was also struggling. Come to terms with my sexuality. Mmm. And that was until I was probably 17 that I started exploring that side of my life and I kept it very much on the quiet if it means again.

I think three people knew at the time. Hmm, and yeah, it was just really, really hard. And when I started doing my matches, I mean, John Schneider became my closest friend. Yeah, and I just love the man to death. He was such a wonderful man, and hence, he was such a huge man. He was probably 24 studies. Massive guy that actually wrestled him once as well, which was a hero.

Probably 12, state or 30. Stone wrestling's, big man. And you made me look a million dollars which was Sensational. But I told him and he said it doesn't matter, it doesn't need to be sort of told me how there was certainly a wrestler throughout the years, but they always had to keep it to themselves. I was saying not publicly known and

He was probably one of the first in the wrestling business that I can find it in. Yep. And was until I moved to Sydney that I actually

Told everyone straight out that I was gay. Yeah, I think there's a relief in a wakes all the way from home. Mmm. Well, and I still hadn't come out to my parents at that stage, but I told the people in Sydney right from the start and no one seemed to care really, which is really good in the way, but I knew there was talk behind my back, but I again,

And I sort of did cop.

To the face at the time, but it was a struggle because like being against thing on such a high from doing all wrestling. Hoping with the gay life, I mean, when I first night, I moved to Sydney. I went down, Oxford Street and

Four guys, walk down through holding hands and little girls holding hands. And I thought, wow, she wouldn't see that in Melbourne. There's it wasn't the gay area were involved. Like is mixing

killed. Her was always the rough area, but it wasn't sort of a gray area. Yeah. And there's only one gay club in know when I went to when I was 18, that was some Corner Commercial Road St. Kilda Road. Did I tell you? They were gay one night a week. Yes.

Like that loves on the Monday night of all nights, which is stupid like to have it, but having a thing with a place, but definitely wasn't for a long time, the Chevron and there would have been particular rooms in there and that tradition kept going for a very long time, just to put a bit of self into it. I didn't stop being myself. Yeah, until the mid 90s and there was rooms there and you know gay nights there in the late 90s. Yeah. So that's what I started.

In the 70s. So I gave you on Wednesday or a couple of times on the Monday night but again because of the such a bad night to have it on. Yeah.

Yet and you have to be home, doctor didn't start off a light 10:00 at night or in those days idea. Trends I've got couldn't drive, so I had to get a tram home. So I have to leave by 11:00. So it's very hard and I did find relief in the gay songs in Melbourne. They were sort of my learning. Yep.

I went to the first one which was in Elizabeth's trailing or was right down near Bourke Street mall. And I mean, just blew my mind that although India's I must I think it was a Sunday afternoon and

It's pretty got 50 people there I thought. Wow and yeah, it's just incredible. So I had to sort of learn things from going to those places and and also logon, I've met a married couple who when I was 17 and they wanted someone to join a threesome. So I thought your dad and and they used to have these like a would use their house and that was again, my learning curves that are

All these married. It was probably six or seven, married couples and me. But I found

I always wanted to get off the men not their wives. So the thing and it is it was like a swingers party and so that also it off having a little orgy in the lounge room. Then all the men would go to the pool in the backyard and the women would go along in the kitchen and so then that's how it all started them. And one guy took me to a gay party in footscray, one night and I've really panicked and then here I was 17.

Will Bailey sighs, talk a thing and all these people were like, I thought they were ancient but they're probably like, 40 or 30 years and you know, it's all so scared and but then a guy who's that 26, come in and

Made me sort of feel that he's and told me all through it and what happens? And so that's how I had to learn because there was no other ways of finding out. Yeah, yeah. It was pretty pretty horrifying in those days and of course has been gained Sydney, one legalized or 1982. So

Things that I was doing the pretty much illegal, but it's just it's just hard to imagine. I went to my first Mardi, Gras in 81, mmm, which was such an eye opener. It's just incredible. And I used to go to The Exchange hotel which was one of the in places of the time that was just a sensational. We had three different bars, three different groups or together like our stairs is sort of like the older guys with the leather.

By was sort of, like, people in their 20s from Basel for 16 17, 18 year old. It's just an amazing place and you'd see all the TV Society. Who were they? Openly gay and drinking. And, but again, they were never out in the Press.

And I'm in rice to go there and I'll just have a beer and sit back and just

Be dumbfounded. I'll be watching all these people help. Wow, this is incredible and it's a couple of TV star here, and are a mum, and expressive eyes at the spa. Last nine or four thousand times, but they're gay. And and I still hadn't told her that I was gay, but she mustn't, obviously, work it out because I've gotten since gay bars and seeing all these people who are gay and that's how about all them. There wasn't a couple of years ago. I told him so, but yeah, it was

It was a lot harder back then than it is today. Yeah, we'll definitely, I do want to want to ask and I, you know, if you, can you Hint it you talked about this in dazzler Dunlop in the book. You know, you did come out to family, you know, eventually and how that went yeah. I was really, really nervous and scared.

I had a pretty tough time in here and see me at one stage there and I wasn't coping well and

I made a template my life and I just took a heap of sleeping pills. Drink some beer and I went down to Bondi Beach I was going to throw myself off the Rocks. Wow and I stood there right on the edge look down and I was crying and this jogger just came along.

And I can't remember any other details took me. I know he just took me aside and talk to me. Next thing I woke up, it was two days later and I was in bed. I didn't know what day was this happened on a Friday night. Yeah, then it was Monday morning.

Well, said, and I woke up, I thought the Saturday morning.

So, I went to the local Corner Shop to give the paper and I saw the paper level.

Sigmund. I love physical. What day is it? They said Monday after she died. I didn't go to work, but then I realized that I needed help. So, I rang up my boss just said, you know, I had some personal issues on well-being, and I had a really good friend, Stephen Kirkland who sadly passed away last year.

And,

He was sort of my first gay friend in Sydney. I've met him probably six months after I got here. And we were best friends until last year when he passed away. Yep.

All right him. No, I told him what happened and he had a friend who was a psychiatrist and he rang her and she saw that afternoon. So I sat with her for about two and a half hours.

And that's when I decided I had to go down the middle and tell my parents. Yep. Again, I'll bring my boss and I had a sensational off at the time and I took two weeks off work, so food of Melbourne.

And who's going to tell him the first night? I was so scared. I just couldn't, I couldn't do it the first night. So the second I got Mom and Dad my grandma cause grandma live with us and

I figure I've got need to have a talk and I was really scared about Dad's reaction because Dad was a real typical hard-working Australian guy through and through. Yeah, always work two or three jobs to support the family. It was just a great great man but not a

Never hugged. Just handshake. Good night son, handshake type of thing. Yep. I was worried about his reaction. I don't know why I want to down there but I thought well why not? And when I say I've got something to tell you I said look you might not be happy and of course Mendez, it be on drugs. I said no no, no, he's got someone. Pregnant is nothing.

Just talk. And then when I said it,

Mom just said, I've known for years and she had me a hug and then for the well, doesn't matter. I don't care. They didn't say a word. He just looked at me and he got up and walked out of the room and he went to bed.

I thought. Okay. So, then Mom and I set up for hours and hours and hours talking which is such a big huge relief. Yeah. And the next morning we had breakfast dad's all you said was good morning, Benny went to work.

Come home. Good afternoon. Knows it and I'll follow.

And Mum said which is just going to take a little bit of time. Yep. And but after the second day, I said look

I think I'll go back to Sydney instead of staying the week. We all just go home. Yep. And then Danzig no stay. He said look I don't understand.

He said, but you're my son and I love you.

The decide to talk then anymore. Okay, so I thought, okay, so we didn't talk about it at all, until you know, your night is actually when my mother got really ill and sadly passed away at a young age.

Dad. And I got really close and he actually would sit there and you told my hand and he told me, he loved me or what he sort of things and was always a husband. Wow. But but a change and right up until his death. Six years ago, we were so quiet. Then, when I met Joey, I introduced Joey to him and he accepted going as his son-in-law. So it's just a big huge turnaround. But but again a pretty horrifying. You just don't know how people going to lately.

Well, I think I can just say as a buyer and transforming I can empathize very very much. I appreciate you sharing that, you know, so much and I think our listeners would too and you know, I just particularly that difficulty if anything, you know, people do need to reach out. Please reach out and remind her about numbers. Q Life, 1-800 1845 to seven rainbow door. One eight hundred seven to nine three, six seven. I had a question then we've got a couple of questions.

From one of our recurring listeners Jenny which I did. We're just we're so close to time. We've only got about seven minutes of conversation time left. We need two hours but the freedom of species coming up at 1 o'clock, which is one of our next shows. One of the questions we were just discussing this before. We came on air that in those days it was illegal for you as a male to wrestle the female nowadays. We see so much more into gender stuff last year I saw, for example,

Example, The Fabulous, Robbie Eagles down here, wrestle, Charlie Evans one night, and Jessica, Troy the next and rear Ripley, even on WWE has wrestled the Curative to what accurate two cars and I'm sorry, I've got the name wrong there. So we are seeing that break down. And really, when you think about it, it makes sense. Because if you can put Rey Mysterio versus the Big Show over, does it really matter about someone's sex, or gender or anything else, but you had

To a bit of trouble at that point where because you are you had a match against a female. Tell us that story and then I'll get it get to Jenny's questions. Yep. Moving back into my friends are seventies up until 2000. The Sydney wrestling scene was run by the New South Wales, government Department of sport and Recreation and they had to have two losses in police and every show. Otherwise, the show couldn't go ahead and they were pretty strict rules. Like you weren't allowed fight outside the ring, you weren't allowed to do so.

Certain things. And at the time we were doing a show in the early 90s and someone was commentating at the time and someone didn't turn up for the show. So the matches were short and we had two and we had to fill in 2 hours 15 minutes at a club that's how the rules were. The clients are very strict with their timing.

And,

And reaction was on the show a name, you would be easily one of the in those days, one of the top two female wrestlers in Australia at the time from probably and 76,000, it was Sherry Sinatra and a reaction that were definitely the best two women wrestlers ever come through. And she only had a young one of her trainees are, so they couldn't go more than five minutes. So we set up an angle where she was just be the girl up in like

A whole minutes.

Maybe in the comments, but then I stepped in to stop her. And she attacked me and she punched me and kick me and bit my shirt off and all that sort of stuff. So then we had an impromptu 10-15 minute match and then one of the other guys coming in is the end to interfere and to set up the main event. So it all worked out really well, but of course afterwards, the last person police came back and they report us to the department Sport and Rec

Because again, it was illegal up until then for some interest and women. So I try to explain the situation to the police and over time, and they weren't happy with that. So then I had to go into the offices of department and Rec guarantee that it wouldn't happen again, make a written

apology and just explain try to explain what happened. So it was in those days was pretty tough and you have to get it, just how it was. Could you change it? Yeah. Look I want to get to Jenny's

Jensen honorary listener. And there's two and one, which is of interest to me, and I'll quite this question. Exactly. And that is quote. The first one is how is wrestling moved away from a sexist and racist past to a more inclusive future and evolving with a more Modern Age, which you do cover in dazzler Dunlop? And I think we can say homophobic transphobic as well, in relation to Jenny's question. So, I'll go with that one first. And then there's another question that she's got as well, but let's pop.

That one first.

I think it's changed dramatically for the best, which is great. There's so many openly gay wrestlers. Now here in Australia and around the world and doesn't seem to be an issue anymore, which I find fantastic. Just simply fantastic because back then in the old days again like they used to portray bad guys as the gay characters. Mmm, and they used to say in the few really autobiographies for the old wrestlers.

People used to love watching the guys, get beat up. Mmm, that's how that's how the mentally was back then. So it is great to see how it's all changed and no one cares anymore. Yeah. And it's not and it's not really part of the storyline. And you know, I have to for myself if I can pay tribute to people who were out in those times from older times, Pat Patterson, you mentioned promoted Jim Barnett for me Orlando, Jordan

And who amongst many things? Now runs a wrestling school in Melbourne who's openly by, you've got people up Sonia DeVille, Shayna baszler. And for me, particular honoring, anyone who's Trans in wrestling Nyla Rose, former, aw, women's champion and Giselle Shaw who's in Impact. Now, which just to me, is I just can't. I can't tell you how my mind blowing that is, if I can have one, self-indulgent moment in this interview, and it just makes it feel

So so good to see that the all this is happening and there's many others and I've got to give a little mentioned to a promotion down here, Deathmatch down under which has on its website, we will not do sexist racist stories or any story. That's derogatory which I think's really, really good to see that. Yeah, yep. And that's human being itself, which is fantastic. Yeah, well, that's what, that's what we do.

20 30 years ago. Would not have happened. Yep. Got a couple more things before we run out of time. Oh my gosh. I wish we had more time because there's so much. We haven't even got to

Jenny's. Other question, is your favorite wrestlers from the new generation and one? I'll let you just name your favorite wrestlers of all time but also anyone who's currently involved, you know, some quick list of favorites actually, obviously number one. Yeah whoo.

Yeah, I love Rick. Barry Windham.

And from the new era of I'm not, I don't know what a lot I'm really intrigued by. Semi is a good gerrera? Yeah. Hey, from what I've seen, looks very impressive, I've only seen probably four or five matches. I don't even watch WWE for a couple of years. So I'm out of touch with them but in Australia because you got robbed the Eagles, who is just Sensational. Yep. And banjo Powers, who's the guy from Sydney who's now missing in that Lake?

Very impressive young, man. You have some such great young talent in Australia. Perth seems to have some great restaurants gather McGavin. There's another one, I've seen a few videos of or YouTube's of this impressive. So, we're in a really good place at the moment. Yeah, look a great agreed with that. And there was a great for page, article in a recent episode of inside the ropes on Australian wrestling as well. And of course, very hard. Not to mention rear Ripley.

At the top of WWE at the moment, Jamie Bennett his seems to have just worked her backside off and done it honestly, which impresses me as well. I wish we could talk and talk forever but just on a very different note, you have moved away from wrestling. And now you're on Instagram is Ken tongues desserts. How are you staying at 84 kg time tasting. All those wonderful desserts that you do. It had to be a trick in there. Some sort of kayfabe

April that we've just broken in Tasmania. Recently Perth again, you have always loved

Downtime to Melbourne, I still call Melbourne my home. Yep. I've lived in Sydney more than two-thirds from Life, while we were to. Yeah, I love Melbourne. But yeah, we get we try and go Queensland and we try and go all over several. I love Adelaide as well. We try and go everywhere. So just love traveling and love eating. Yeah, well look, all I can say, is we end the show is if you do get down to Melbourne, I'd just love to meet you and just shake your hand.

And thank you. And I can also drop a hint that. I'm sure there are lots of wrestling schools. If you wanted to drop by down here, well, if there's none of them do their the biggest pack of he'll since Bruiser Brody, but I'm sure, I'm sure they would love you to come by and just now share some stories and tips and all that sort of thing. Because, of course, they would want to keep learning. So, can we've got to leave it there? Just hang on a second. I'll pop you back on. Hold because I've got a Make Way for freedom of species. Thanks so much for your

Time freedom of species today, their guest is Zane McNeil who's a non-binary scholar activist from West Virginia, whose edited or whole range of Collections and received a national lawyers, Guild legal award for their, for their work and organizing. So that's going to be great radio. The it's a doubleheader main event on 3 CR today, Then followed well it's always a main event rotations at to and clearing the air at three. Can I'll take it out today with your other entrance

Music that you loved. And as a fan of mental as anything and rest in peace greedy, Smith, or this was a Martin Plaza on lead, vocal mr. Natural. You are very natural. Thank you so much. And well, in honor of Jack little today. I will not only will I say catch you next week. I'll also say for today's program, that's all there is. There isn't any more. Thanks for tuning in to out of the pan this week.