



Rolf to the rescue

Early in his career, entertainer and artist Rolf Harris brought formidable talent to the fledgling TVW.



When Rolf Harris recorded *Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport*, the song which went to number one in Australia within a week of its release, he offered 10 per cent of the royalties to the three men who had done the recording. He wrote it in 1957. “No thanks,” they said to a man. “We’ll take a recording fee instead.” Such was their confidence in the song’s success. Hindsight is indeed a fine thing.

The recording of the single, and also the writing and recording of another Harris favourite, *Six White Boomers*, were highlights of his time at Channel 7 in Perth. And so was the chance to produce and present a television program of his own.

He sang *Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport* on the first edition of the variety program *Spotlight*, one of a raft of live programs TVW put to air in its first weeks.

Harris, the boy from Bassendean, had moved to the UK in 1953 to study art. But he hated art school, finding it a far cry from what he’d expected, and, while continuing his painting after dropping out of art school, had made some tentative steps in children’s television.

That immediately made him a target for Brian Treasure and Jim Cruthers, on the lookout in the UK for experienced performers who would relate to a Perth audience. Here was