

The Ethnic Broadcaster



Agents of Change

Training Youth Broadcasters

Brisbane '07

NEMBC/AICA National Conference

Also Inside:

Welcome to the Digital Rodeo!

Sorry - The Debt of a Nation

Oromo Conference Melbourne 2007

The Media and Cultural Diversity

Northern Territory Intervention - What You Can Do



*Welcome to the quarterly journal of the
National Ethnic & Multicultural Broadcasters' Council,
representing and resourcing ethnic community
broadcasters across Australia.*

COMMUNITY RADIO CODES OF PRACTICE REVIEW

The Community Broadcasting Association of Australia is currently facilitating a review of the community radio Codes of Practice.

The Codes set out agreed standards of conduct and programming guidelines for community broadcasters. The Codes are enforceable by the broadcasting regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority.

During the first stage of consultation, you are welcome to make general comments about how the Codes could be improved. Please note that the first stage of consultation ends on Wednesday 5 March 2008 so contact us for more information:

Bruno Brayovic
Community Broadcasting Association of Australia
Phone: (02) 9310 2999
Email: bruno@cbaa.org.au



NEMBC Executive

President: George Zangalis VIC
Vice-President: Tangi Steen SA
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Members:
Joe De Luca NT
Cristina Descalzi SA
Osai Faiva NSW
Nick Dmyterko QLD
Adam Lo QLD
Luigi Romanelli TAS
Dana Popovich WA

NEMBC Staff

Executive Officer: Tim Tolhurst
Youth Coordinator: Marijana Bosnjak
Membership Officer: Shangale Ali
Administration Officer: Julia Farrell
Bookkeeper: Denis West

The Ethnic Broadcaster Editor, Coordinator
and Designer: Julia Farrell

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NEMBC contact details

Postal:
PO Box 1144
Collingwood VIC 3066
Phone: 03 9486 9549
Fax: 03 9486 9547
Email: admin@nembc.org.au
Website: www.nembc.org.au

We welcome contributions to *The Ethnic Broadcaster*,
especially from NEMBC Members.
Submit to: admin@nembc.org.au

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President's Pen

Dear Member

Following our very successful pre-election lobbying campaign I was hoping to commence this report with the good news of a substantial funding increase for ethnic and other community broadcasters. But as you probably know the government told us just before Christmas it does not intend to consider an increase this financial year. The NEMBC and all community broadcasting organisations have written to the ALP Rudd government asking it to review this decision, in the light of our modest and just claim acknowledged so readily also by the ALP in its 2007 media policy.

Additionally the NEMBC has requested the Minister for Communications to at least restore the ethnic broadcasters training scheme this year, and the Minister for Immigration, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs to fund ethnic broadcasters to inform migrants, refugees and ethnic communities in general on current government policies. So far we have had no responses. Community broadcasters cannot accept the government explanation that their claims cannot be economically sustained under government policies of 'tightening expenditure to fight inflation'.

The \$15 million sought by community broadcasters, including \$1.9 million for the ethnic sector, is but a drop in the ocean in the \$1 billion ABC-SBS budget and the \$4 billion tax cuts to the rich.

No funding increase for this year means broadcasters and their stations will not only curtail or abandon badly needed service expansions but cuts in existing ones, at a time when the need for more has never been greater and the government itself expects the community sector to do more.

The NEMBC will continue to campaign for the government to meet its obligations and indeed honour its commitment.

Since I last wrote to you, we have had our Annual General Meeting last November in Brisbane, the highlights of which were the participation of Indigenous broadcasters, reviewing of our work and the election of a new NEMBC Executive and Committees, charged with the responsibility to protect and advance the best interests of ethnic broadcasters and their stations. This means

above all development and implementation of forward-looking, dynamic policies and campaigns, linking up with the wider community and multicultural sectors, better informed and involved members, an efficient and 'professional organisation at all Executive, Committee and staff levels'. The February 15-17 Executive meeting was set to discuss and decide on proposals on how to do this. This will include state forums of ethnic broadcasters, allocation of portfolios to all Executive members, monthly meetings of officers, extended Executive meetings, enhanced roles of the Youth and Women's Committees, setting up of an NEMBC digital committee, renewed membership drive, greater and consistent NEMBC presence on national broadcasting, immigration, refugee and multicultural issues and debates.

The NEMBC has been among the first community organisations to congratulate the Rudd government in apologising at last to the Aboriginal people and call for immediate practical measures to tackle age-old injustices and discrimination against Australia's Indigenous citizens.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the new Executive members Cristina Descalzi from SA, Joe De Luca for NT, Luigi Romanelli for Tasmania, Dana Popovich (Women's Committee Convenor) and Adam Lo (Youth Committee Convenor), and to express deep appreciation for the work done by departed members, Luchi Santer, Judith Ventic, Maree-Josée Barnes and Jiselle Hanna.

Congratulations also to Tangi Steen—elected as Vice-President, Victor Marillanca—elected as Secretary, and Nik Nikolich elected as Treasurer.

I am confident the problems and challenges of 2008, some new, some perennial, will be met by us all, with our well-known and admired commitment to ethnic community broadcasting and multiculturalism—indeed to a just and fair Australia.

George Zangalis
President
NEMBC



Executive Officer's Letter

Hello to all of you in ethnic community broadcasting and our many supporters. This may well be my last time to speak to you as the Executive Officer of the NEMBC. The last two years have been a real challenge, with some pluses I think, for the sector. We are now halfway through a project aimed at addressing generational change and creating greater opportunities for young people in the sector. The project, Agents of Change, has just finished the last of the extensive training program and we now look forward to seeing the results of their training at their stations. Some of this group are already sitting on committees of management at their stations and we hope that they will be with us for some time to contribute to a very exciting future for the sector in general. They were a very enthusiastic bunch who bonded very well early in the project and we hope they continue to support and encourage each other in the coming years.

The NEMBC Youth Officer Marijana has achieved a tremendous result after a lot of hard work speaking to stations, prospective participants and developing a training package that was innovative and forward looking. We should thank Mia Lauze who in her role as the CBAA Training Manager was always supportive and very helpful when things seemed to get bogged down. Having left the CBAA I wish her the very best knowing how much she has committed to the community broadcasting sector and I am thankful for her patience and tireless effort in getting the National Training Program on its feet.

Over the two years I have been at the NEMBC I have made many friends and had some great experiences. With a long background in working with ethnic broadcasters I never tire of the humour, the passion and commitment I see among you all. Cultural diversity is one of the great strengths of Australian life and I have been very privileged to work in a field that is the exemplar of multiculturalism.

We are faced by many challenges for the future. As you will know by now the community broadcasting sector has received no additional funding for the next financial year. For ethnic broadcasters this is a significant blow. Not only are program grants affected, it also dents our hopes of re-establishing the AERTP training program through the NEMBC.

The NEMBC is an organisation with great potential and that should be nourished and protected. It is a unique body in a unique industry and it has the capacity to thrive when well supported by its members and used in a creative way. The NEMBC would love to have your thoughts about how all that might happen. A survey went out recently with the membership renewals. Please respond to that as frankly and creatively as you wish. It is important that the NEMBC be a strong voice for its members as you are all special people doing a job that has inestimable value to your communities. Without a history of ethnic community broadcasting Australia would be a much poorer place. Thank you for all those who have been friends of the NEMBC and who have also supported the work of the Secretariat.

Tim Tolhurst
**Executive Officer & Policy Officer
NEMBC**

agents of change

Change is afoot! NEMBC Youth Coordinator Marijana Bosnjak reports on the Agents of Change Pilot Training Project bringing youth into the picture and onto the airwaves.

After many months of planning, the first stage of the Agents of Change Pilot Training Project was launched on November 26th 2007. This project has been designed by the NEMBC to address the issue of generational change and a shortage of qualified CALD trainers in the ethnic broadcasting sector by training CALD youth broadcasters to become qualified trainers. The project is also designed to enhance their skills as trainers through workshops in community development and governance, which makes this project different to a stand-alone Cert IV course.

So we gathered some of the brightest young broadcasters from NSW and Victoria to attend four days of workshops in the lead-up to them undertaking the Cert IV in Training & Assessment. The workshops were all held at 3ZZZ, which gave participants the opportunity to see a full-time ethnic station in full swing. The youth broadcasters were from a range of stations such as full-time ethnic stations like 3ZZZ in Melbourne and 2000FM in Sydney, and from generalist sub-metro stations such as 3CR (Melbourne) and 2RSR (Radio Skid Row in Sydney) and some regional representation from 2VOX in Wollongong.

The first two days of the training involved a short course in Governance delivered by CBAA trainer Nicola Joseph, a broadcast trainer with many years of experience in the community broadcasting sector. This training was designed to equip the participants with skills in understanding governance and working within board or committee structures. This training was contextualised in the community broadcasting landscape and it encouraged participants to think about the governance structures at their stations, levels of accessibility and accountability and how they may be able to be part of it.



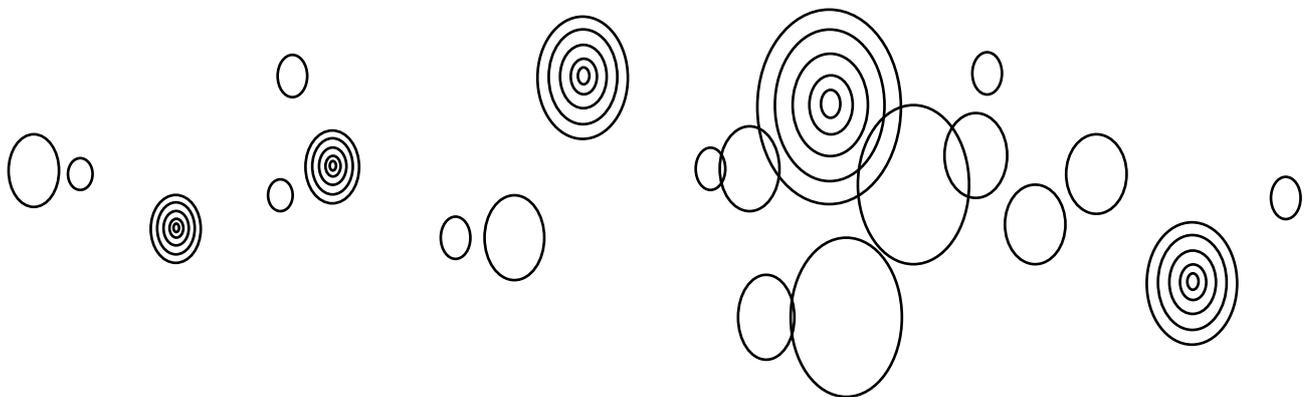
The second part of the training involved two days of workshops with Luzma Sanchez from the NMIT Health and Community Service Department. Luzma, a trainer in community development, also has had experience as a broadcaster for the Spanish group at 3CR. The workshop was based around the participants' own experiences of community, community broadcasting and community development. These workshops involved getting the participants to look at how to work with and empower CALD communities through their work as community broadcasters and more specifically as future broadcast trainers.

It is the objective that at the end of this training, these future trainers will come to play a more integral role at their stations and have a better understanding of the community development objectives behind community radio. The next stage will involve the participants undertaking the Certificate IV in Training & Assessment in mid-February this year, so stay tuned for more news.

This project is funded by the CBF through the Pilot Training Grant. For more information about CBF grants please visit www.cbf.com.au.



For more information about this project, please contact Marijana Bosnjak, NEMBC Youth Coordinator on 03 9486 9549 or via email at youth@nembc.org.au



Women Creating Harmony Project 2007-2008

The Geelong Ethnic Broadcasters' Association and the Women's Group at 94.7 The Pulse would like to share with you the development of the Women Creating Harmony Project 2007-2008.

I am the current Public Officer of GEBA and share the role of Project Coordinator on this project with Gerda Bijkersma.

In 2007 we were successful in receiving the Women Creating Harmony Grant. This Grant is a result of collaboration between the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Office of Women's Policy and Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs. It is offered annually and was created because of 'a growing awareness and evidence of the leading role women from diverse cultural backgrounds are taking in developing or promoting cross cultural respect and understanding at the local level'. (George Lekakis, Victorian Multicultural Commission)

The objective of the program is to build respect and understanding for cultural, racial and religious diversity through a specific women-led program. Our project with the local women was carried out with two forums, very well attended by 60 women from 21 cultural backgrounds.

They shared their stories and cultures and we have produced and documented 'Women's Voices—Women's Stories Creating a catalyst for Cultural Harmony through Radio'. An audio CD with eight interviews and a DVD with a Powerpoint presentation and movie of the two gatherings have been produced and will be available to Community Radio Stations upon request after the official kit was launched on the 16th of February 2008.

The Pulse community radio station in Geelong, Victoria is very involved in this crosscultural participation with ten different Ethnic programs, sixteen hours on a weekly basis with all aspects of community information produced to our diverse community.

This amazing project has created a network of new friends and many of the women wish to now grow and contribute to their community and the broader community. The question begs to be answered 'How can we make it work beyond this project?'



Irena Dana Stumbras
Victorian Representative
NEMBC Women's Committee
irena.stumbras@bigpond.com

MULTICULTURALISM: THE WAY FORWARD FOR AUSTRALIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

*Paper presented by Ms Voula Messimeri at the NEMBC/AICA
National Conference, Brisbane 2007*

Thank you for the invitation to be a part of this conference and at the outset I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay my respects to the elders who are here today.

Ethnic community broadcasting has a proven track record in meeting the needs of our diverse Australian population and is an indispensable part of the Australian media landscape. Ethnic broadcasting has and continues to contribute in profound ways to the lives of immigrant families, often providing a cultural bridge to a new way of life in a new country.

This is important for smooth and timely settlement, contributes to social cohesion and is critical to the success of Australian Multiculturalism. Ethnic community participation in providing multilingual broadcasting is a vital ingredient in building a cohesive society which reflects the social diversity of multicultural Australia.

Undoubtedly ethnic community broadcasters are one of the closest points of contact with their constituencies and therefore serve well for exchanging information necessary for the survival of many CLDB communities. This information promotes quick and comprehensive settlement experiences, and includes information about government and community services, information about community events, information for newly arrived migrants about services, rights and responsibilities, and information that allows members of communities to be more involved in Australian society.

Additionally it is a voice which contributes to the building of an inclusive, accepting and harmonious society by providing a forum for discussion and debate as well as entertainment. Ethnic community radio values Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and directly influences the construction and maintenance of strong, vibrant communities.

Given these undisputed facts I am proud to say that FECCA and its state and territory members are totally in support of the vital work undertaken by all of you and committed to actively supporting your claims to government and opposition, especially in this period before a federal election.

A few words in relation to multiculturalism, as most of us have been placed in a position of needing to defend this important policy given the attacks primarily from the [former Howard] federal government. Multiculturalism is as important as it has ever been in ensuring both effective settlements of migrants and ongoing social cohesion in Australian society today.

As we know, multiculturalism first became prominent in the mid-1970s amidst a growing realisation that policies of assimilation and integration were less effective in providing decent and equitable settlement outcomes for new migrant communities. Effective settlement, cultural maintenance and equitable access to services are hardly revolutionary concepts. They are some of the core concepts that underpin multiculturalism.

At its essence multiculturalism recognises the great cultural diversity within the Australian community. It enables people to freely and proudly express their cultural heritage while uniting around core civic values like democracy and the rule of law. It enables people to feel at home regardless of where they have come from.

Multiculturalism can be considered to represent core principles like fairness, respect, anti-racism, non-discrimination, and equality of opportunity—regardless of the cultural, linguistic or religious background of an individual.

In a society like Australia where one in four people are born overseas and one in five speak a language other than English at home, multiculturalism has become a great organising principle for our generally peaceful and harmonious society.

But recently we have seen multiculturalism come under threat. We saw this most clearly in the decision to drop the title from the department that deals with multicultural affairs, now DIAC, at the beginning of 2007.

So how can a policy which promotes equity, non-discrimination, fairness and cultural maintenance gradually lose support?

At its heart multiculturalism means saying no to racism. It means saying no to notions of cultural or racial superiority, ideas that have been at the heart of so much war and misery in human history. The question to those supporting integration as an alternative to multiculturalism is: can they guarantee this policy will not see a return to the bad old days of blatant racism and discrimination?

Multiculturalism is also about community development. The policies of multiculturalism have allowed new and emerging communities to find their feet in our society within their own cultures and organisations. This has been an effective means of both advocating for their immediate and ongoing settlement needs and gradually joining them into the wider mainstream community. If disavowing multiculturalism means de-funding specific migrant communities then again the potential downsides are great.

By international standards Australia has had one of the most successful immigration and settlement programs in the world. Sure we have had challenges. Chief amongst these is the continuing struggle to achieve reconciliation with our Indigenous communities and achieve lasting social and economic justice for the rightfully first Australians.

What you have there is policies of multiculturalism leading to effective integration over time. Yet despite this success our current political climate seems to demand that we reject all that has been successful about our nation in recent times.

‘Multiculturalism can be considered to represent core principles like fairness, respect, anti-racism, non-discrimination, and equality of opportunity.’

The decision by the [former] federal government to legislate for a formalised, higher level citizenship test is one example of this new emphasis. This test is unfair and will discriminate against non-English-speaking migrants and refugees and those with poor literacy. FECCA has campaigned vigorously against its introduction, but apparently unsuccessfully as it was hurriedly introduced several weeks ago [at the time of this presentation—mid-November 2007].

Australian values have also occupied the national airwaves: constructive debates about Australia as a nation in the 21st century should be welcomed. However, I trust that these debates are inclusive and do not lead to particular sections of the community becoming isolated and marginalised. Basic human values are universal and not unique to Australia.

In addition we have witnessed recently, with absolute dismay, the singling out by the [former] Minister for Immigration Kevin Andrews of the African communities, as not settling into Australia. This unfair attack has come at a time when the media is being increasingly racist and alarmist about our often struggling and small African migrant and refugee communities. Of course in the past there was similar reporting about the Vietnamese community several decades ago, and further back still of the Italian and Greek communities. However, blatant political opportunism does nothing to maintain and enhance

either social cohesion in Australia or the perception by other countries that Australia has been slowly reverting back to racism and assimilationist policies.

This is at time when Australia is competing internationally to attract workers to fill a high demand for skilled, professional workers as well as maintain a high flow of onshore international students who, as we know, add significantly to Australia's financial bottom line.

Anti-racism, community development, and social cohesion and harmony are as important now as they have ever been. The policies of multiculturalism have entrenched these important attributes within the Australian community.

Multiculturalism has enabled new and emerging communities to feel welcome, to feel safe, to grow and ultimately to prosper. Cultural and linguistic diversity has moreover enhanced the quality of life for all Australians and intermarriage has forever altered the fabric of Australian families.

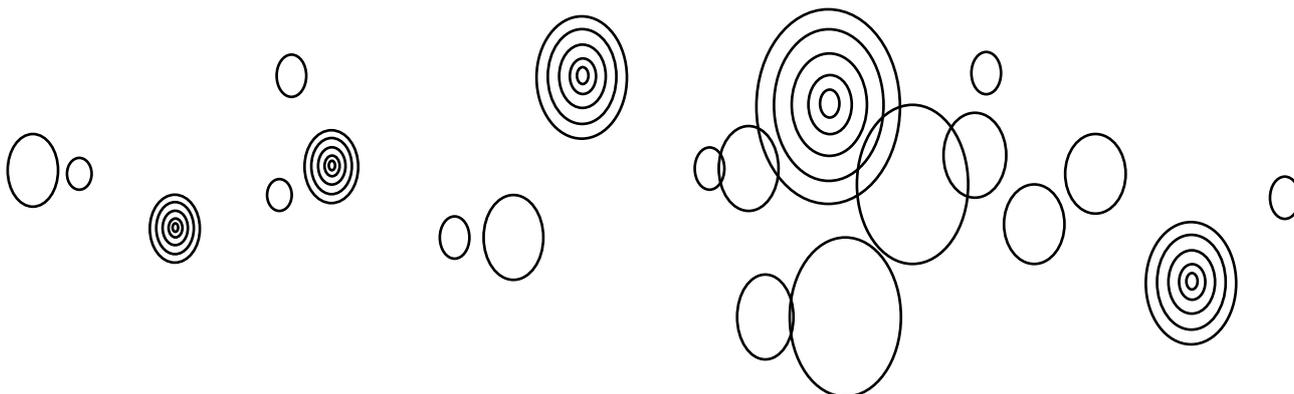
We should be careful of throwing proven successful multiculturalism policies away for short-term populism and political opportunism. Our nation would be the poorer for it, socially and economically.

Voula Messimeri

Chair

Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

Voula has been involved in the community services field for twenty-five years, with a particular focus on multicultural affairs, women's issues and has a strong commitment to social justice and community building. As Executive Director of the Australian Greek Welfare Society (AGWS) she manages a state-wide agency with a diverse range of programs including aged and disabilities, childcare, training, family support and community education. Voula serves on a number of boards including as Deputy Chair of VITS Language Link, Deputy Chair of Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, RMIT University Council Member and member on the RMIT Training Pty Ltd Board, Trustee Radio-marathon Trust (for children with disabilities). Voula was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in March 2007.





**NEMBC
MEDIA
RELEASE**

SORRY

The debt of the nation

4 February 2008

The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) is very happy to support the federal government in its apology to the stolen generations of Aboriginal children at the head of its parliamentary agenda, and calls on the Opposition to give its bipartisan support.

NEMBC President George Zangalis said the issue had been a running sore on the body politic for a long time, more than 10 years since the Stolen Generations Report, during which Australia's Indigenous people have had to wait for a change of government to see the apology implemented and more importantly for concerted action to right the many wrongs and injustices imposed on Indigenous Australians.

Suggestions by the Opposition that the apology is a 'rush job' and that there are more pressing needs to address are simply wrong. Mr Zangalis said, 'we have had a decade to think about it. There is nothing that the Rudd government can do to fix inflation and rising interest rates on the first sitting of parliament. However, saying sorry would be a big and historic step towards reconciliation and an affirmation of multiculturalism.

'Resolving this issue can unite the nation so that we can face these pressing national and international problems together.

'I do hope the Opposition will come on board and give its support for an apology which will be hugely significant to Australia's Indigenous people and of which Australians of all ethnic backgrounds can be proud.'

George Zangalis
President
NEMBC

For more information please contact Mr Zangalis on 0417 319 705

Value Our Languages

Mandy Scott discusses the UN International Year of Languages and why it is important for Australians to embrace multilingualism.

Did you know that 2008 has been declared the International Year of Languages by the United Nations? The UN is calling on everyone to increase their activities to foster respect for, and to promote and protect all languages, especially endangered languages. As the Director-General of UNESCO, the coordinating body for the year, said ‘it is important that the idea that “languages matter” [the IYL slogan] be promoted everywhere.’

Transmitting in 97 languages across Australia, ethnic community broadcasting can certainly contribute to promoting this message—both to the younger generation, who may not always see the value of their family languages, and to the wider community. Activities that reach out to Australians brought up in monolingual English environments can also help to raise the profile of the community broadcasting sector—which can only help in future campaigns for increased funding.

In the ACT, some broadcasters have collaborated with language teachers to help encourage children to learn the languages being broadcast. Others provide listening practice for adult learners. Some of these broadcasters are cooperating with the Canberra Region Languages Forum, a group interested in language promotion, to make such initiatives more widely known and built upon.

As Professor Michael Clyne, an expert on bilingualism in Australia, said at the Languages Forum in Canberra in October 2007:

‘It is very important for multilingual Australians to enable monolingual Australians to participate in our multilingual Australia. After all, monolingualism is curable even though most of our decision-makers don’t seem to think so. They seem to think that being an Australian citizen one has to be monolingual and if you aren’t a monolingual, you should become one. We need to turn that upside-down and say we are a multilingual society and we want all Australians to participate in our multilingual society.’

We have had a change of federal government since October, and now have a leadership who seem to acknowledge the benefits of knowing more about other languages and cultures. Let’s hope that increased funding will flow from this, and that ethnic community broadcasters can share in this. It is also the International Year of Languages, which we can all capitalise on.

Mandy Scott
Canberra Multicultural Community Forum

For more information about the International Year of Languages and to help publicise your activities, visit http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=35523&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

*For more information about Canberra Region Languages Forum,
contact mandy.scott@anu.edu.au
or call 0408 089 235*

DIGITAL

NEMBC Youth Coordinator Marijana Bosnjak welcomes you to the wonderful world of digital, and calls on broadcasters to stake their claim in the new frontier.

Digital Radio Broadcasting (DRB) is a new frontier for ethnic community broadcasters, a brave new world so to say! At present the availability of airtime for young CALD broadcasters at many full-time ethnic and generalist stations is limited. This is due to a number of reasons such as funding, station culture, the attitudes of non-youth broadcasters and the attitudes towards youth in different cultural groups. Younger broadcasters are often hard pressed to find airtime particularly where non-youth broadcasters have had a monopoly on airtime for many years. Ethnic and multicultural youth programs are minimal and youth segments are often enmeshed within non-youth hours, falling prey to the production and content values, and pressures from non-youth presenters and audiences. Lack of commitment to genuine mentorship (a young person merely panelling does not necessarily count as youth participation!) coupled with attitudes of distrust towards youth broadcasters make matters worse. It is a disempowering position for youth broadcasters and a precarious one for the ethnic broadcasting sector given that it is in need of generational change. DRB and associated digital platforms are anticipated to alleviate some of the current restrictions in airtime. That is not to say that we export all youth broadcasting to the digital arena. Newer communities with fewer resources will not necessarily find digital media as accessible in terms of information in their languages. Youth programming will therefore continue to call for equitable allocation of airtime on analogue radio.

As the scheduled 2009 rollout of DRB for metro stations in six capital cities looms closer, there remain uncertainties as to the type of content that will be broadcast and how that will be managed. Content management issues aside, the issue of programming was one that was addressed by CALD youth broadcasters at the inaugural NEMBC-AICA national conference in Brisbane in November 2007. The NEMBC Youth Committee decided to take charge and address the future of ethnic and multicultural youth broadcasting within the DRB framework. The customary presentations regarding the technology and bureaucratic infrastructures were avoided, with all the basics of what digital radio is all about covered in a handout. CALD youth broadcasters were encouraged to think creatively when asked: 'What do you want to do with this space?'

Youth broadcasters are poised to embrace the technologies required to broadcast digitally. Most already listen to live and on-demand webcasts and regularly download podcasts. Throughout the discussions it was recognised that DRB is just one of many digital platforms available to broadcasters. It does not follow that analogue and digital remain mutually exclusive. Youth broadcasters recognise the portability of their programs that, once digitised, they can be broadcast on multiple platforms, not just DRB. In fact young broadcasters have been long waiting for their stations to start webcasting programs and to develop online forums for youth broadcasters. The complementary technologies and digital media that will potentially accompany DRB are already in active use by younger broadcasters, such as internet, mobile phones and MP3 players.

Both English and non-English programs were considered as having an equal allocation on DRB; however, the type of programming that was deemed most popular for broadcast on DRB were multicultural youth programs, broadcast mostly in English. As a result it is not only first generation but second, even third generation, CALD youth who stand to benefit from digital broadcasting. The participants defined multicultural broadcasting as something more fluid and dynamic than what is reflected in current funding guidelines. It is programming that mirrors how young people from CALD communities truly see themselves by broadcasting the kinds of conversations they are actually having in their communities. This provides avenues to communicate across cultural divides as young broadcasters see their role as not just speaking to their communities but also educating the wider population about their cultures and their language. In a climate where youth, particularly from the newer communities, are unfairly targeted in the media, it is crucial for them to have the space to actively counter these stereotypes.

RODEO

Many who were present at the workshop viewed DRB and digital broadcasting on multiple platforms as the key to accessing new audiences, creating new communities and social spaces—locally, nationally and internationally. Youth broadcasters recognise that many of their target audience are already online, digitally savvy and that this space would achieve not only increasing their listenership but also accessing a new generation of broadcasters. Digital broadcasting in general brings community broadcasting to a different kind of audience, a key issue in a sector in need of generational change.

Ethnic Grants Advisory Committee (EGAC) funding guidelines for ethnic and multicultural broadcasting have long restricted access to creating and listening to innovative CALD youth programming on community radio. The programs that young broadcasters would like to be producing do not generally get allocated airtime as they often fail to gain funding based on the proportion of music and spoken language content, amongst other criteria. It is difficult to get young people to participate in program making when programs must be modelled on non-youth equivalents of that language group—a programming model that does not seem to entice youth broadcasters. At the time of these discussions, it was understood that funding for DRB is restricted to digital infrastructure not program making. For ethnic and multicultural youth broadcasters, particularly those who have been knocked back by stations or are interested in innovative content production, this proves to be a blessing in disguise. The combination of lack of program funding coupled with the government's requirement for DRB to be a space for new and innovative content, rather than rehashing current analogue programs, favours CALD youth broadcasters.

DRB is a great opportunity as it is compelling many stations and broadcasters to have a serious look at broadcasting through DRB and also other digital platforms such as the internet. There has been a lot of talk about how the transition towards DRB can be maximised, with stations beginning something as simple as internet streaming of existing programs via the internet and piloting new online programs. For the sub-metro and regional stations that have been omitted from the first stages of the digital rollout, it means they still have the ability to gain new audiences and trial the types of technology required for DRB. It may also be that many stations will find their biggest audiences online.

In the meantime, based on the workshop discussions, the NEMBC Youth Committee has proposed that the NEMBC website plays host to an on-demand webcast of ethnic and multicultural youth programs from all around Australia. The programs that will be trialled initially are ethnic and multicultural youth shows that are currently aired through metro, sub-metro and regional community radio stations. This would offer broadcasters experience in converting analogue programs into a digital format, digitally editing out time references for example, and practice in formatting programs for easier editing. It would not take too long before we began sourcing new ethnic and multicultural youth programs, created in a station environment but specifically for a digital audience—programs that could eventually make their way onto DRB. These programs will continue to serve a community whilst being innovative in format and content, and taking full advantage of what digital has to offer.

The project would be administered by the NEMBC but as state representatives for ethnic youth broadcasters, each member of the NEMBC Youth Committee would be integral to sourcing existing and new programs to bring to the website. They would also be a part of promoting and educating youth broadcasters about digital broadcasting via workshops and online forums. The committee see themselves as well-placed to be a proxy national content management body and are therefore keen to trial the management, aggregation and technology by using internet streaming as a template for digital radio. The NEMBC website would be a one-stop shop for visitors to listen to programs produced by CALD youth in Australia, in both English and various other languages. This will be an exciting step for the ethnic broadcasting sector and we look forward to taking the bull by the horns and sharing it with the rest of the sector.

Marijana Bosnjak
Youth Coordinator
NEMBC



Membership Application/Renewal 2008

Please complete the form below and post to: **NEMBC
PO Box 1144 Collingwood VIC 3066**. Please attach
your cheque or money order for \$25 (includes GST).
Please note that **all memberships expire on
December 31 of each year.**

Our Mission:

“The NEMBC is a progressive not-for-profit organisation that advocates for multiculturalism and ethnic community broadcasting and continues to fight racism.”

The National Ethnic & Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) is the peak body for ethnic community broadcasters. Please note NEMBC members are programs not individuals. The NEMBC develops policy, advocates on behalf of broadcasters, organises the annual national conference, provides networking opportunities and various resources to broadcasters and promotes culturally appropriate training practices.

I wish to become a member of the National Ethnic & Multicultural Broadcasters' Council and support the aims and objectives of the NEMBC.

[please sign] ----- **Date** -----

Program Name _____

Program Language _____

Community Group _____

(e.g. Polish Church Group, Democritus League, Thai Community Radio)

Station (call sign) _____ **Day and time** *(e.g. Monday 2 – 4 pm)* _____

How often? Daily Weekly Monthly Other: _____

Target audience (please tick)

Youth New & emerging community Women Children

Main contact name _____

Home address _____

*Please provide contact details for the Member broadcaster, **not** the station.*

Phone _____

Email _____

Details of all people broadcasting on your program: *(attach another sheet if needed)*

Name	Gender	Role <i>(e.g. presenter)</i>	Email

If you may have any questions regarding membership renewal please don't hesitate to call me on 03 9486 9549.

Sincerely

Shangale Ali
Membership Organiser

Your Privacy – The National Ethnic & Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) respects your right to privacy protection. Any personal information supplied is used to assist us in providing Members with services and resources, and in meeting our responsibilities as the peak body representing ethnic and multicultural broadcasters across Australia. To this end, information may be shared with other sector bodies. You have the right access your personal information held by the NEMBC at any time. For more information please see our Privacy Policy at www.nembc.org.au/privacy.html or contact the NEMBC Executive Officer on 03 9486 9549 or by email admin@nembc.org.au.

The Media, Cultural Diversity and Identity



*A paper tabled by Dr Angela Romano at the Language-Culture-Identity Plenary Session
NEMBC-AICA Conference, Brisbane, 10-11 November 2007*

How can we ensure that our mass media speak in a way that is meaningful to all Australians and gives everyone a 'fair go' when it comes to sharing their ideas?

Researchers, media workers, community leaders and ordinary citizens have for decades been pointing out problems in the way in which Australia's mass media represent, misrepresent or completely fail to represent the identity and experiences of people from Indigenous and many other ethnic or religious groups. Sometimes journalists and other media workers use blunt, obvious stereotypes or racist language. However, the problem usually occurs in a subtle, almost undetectable way. It appears not just in the language that journalists and other media workers use, but in the way that they select which people will be represented in their stories, how they frame the topics they talk about, and the range of ideas and opinions that are discussed.

Community broadcasters have shown considerable innovation in presenting voices, presentation styles and program content that represent a diverse variety of communities. Many people who work with community broadcasting stations later take jobs in the mainstream media, so we might hope that they will introduce incremental improvements to all of Australia's media.

However, although community broadcasters have great potential to present fresh voices and culturally inclusive content, in reality much of what they put to air closely mimics the style, structure and content of the mainstream media. Although many people move from work with the community media to jobs in the mainstream media, once they do so, they tend to adopt the professional cultures and patterns of their new employers and drop the styles and formats that they previously used in community broadcasting.

So what can be done? I would like to discuss some of the factors that lead to minority communities being under-represented or misrepresented in news and current affairs, even by well-intentioned and well-trained journalists and media workers. Although I mainly discuss journalism, the issues are relevant to other forms of fiction and non-fiction media.

A Raw Deal for Minorities in the News Media

Studies of Australian journalism have long pointed to the tendency for reporters to collect their news in particular ways that allow them to be as time efficient as possible. The drive for journalists to save time, and therefore money, for their employers affects the way in which people from minority communities are represented in the media.

Much research shows that although journalists can and do access a wide variety of sources, reporters generally spend most of their time collecting news from the centres of political and economic power. These include the parliaments, police headquarters, courts, stock exchanges and offices of major businesses, where journalists can quickly and easily gather a lot of information about events and issues that fit the journalists' understanding of what is 'newsworthy'. The leaders and spokespeople in these institutions are skilled in suggesting story ideas and articulating their points succinctly, so that journalists can obtain and process the information as quickly as possible before their ever-pressing deadlines.

Problems do arise because Australian journalists generally overuse these types of sources. This creates imbalances in the amount and type of news that journalists produce about Indigenous and ethnic communities, religious minorities, women, people from rural and remote areas, people with disabilities, senior citizens and young people. This inequality

occurs because the bosses and official spokespeople of the big headquarters of politics and business are mainly white, middle-aged men from mainstream social demographics. When journalists overrely on sources from these political and business institutions, they are unlikely to encounter many, if any, sources from minority groups or culturally diverse backgrounds.

In short, journalists who use these institutions as their operational base may inadvertently exclude non-white, non-mainstream voices, agendas and perspectives. This may occur despite the journalists' best efforts to be 'objective' in the way that they identify topics of public importance, determine what the facts are, and listen to different sides of the story.

Ironically, these factors also mean that people from minority groups are least likely to be excluded from news about crime. The police headquarters in major cities and towns usually provide journalists with summaries of all the crimes that have occurred in their area, regardless of the gender, ethnic or social background of the victims and those accused of committing the crimes. As a result, some minority groups mainly appear in the news when extremely negative events such as crime, corruption or chaos require a response from police, who in turn bring the issues and actors to journalists' attention.

Increasing the Social and Cultural Diversity in Media Representations

Australians are increasingly obtaining their information from the internet and alternative or community media, which operate with different agendas, routines and budgets to the commercial media. This may lead to some improvements in the situation.

Some media organisations are also experimenting with what the Americans have dubbed 'public journalism' or 'civic journalism'. Public journalism is aimed at ensuring that journalists act as mediators who help ordinary members of the community to take part in public debate and community decision-making processes. Some experiments in public journalism have involved big, expensive projects with public forums and similar activities that have attempted to engage ordinary people in exploring major social issues. Sometimes public journalism has involved very simple community-based activities, such as the media organisation setting up stalls at public events to encourage members of the public to approach journalists to talk about issues affecting their lives. Public journalists may also conduct 'civic mapping'. 'Civic mapping' occurs when journalists identify places where different community groups naturally congregate, such as shopping malls, church and bingo halls, clubs and pubs, and spend time there to gather ordinary people's perspectives on what is important in society.

In *News Writing and Reporting for Today's Media*, Bruce Itule and Douglas Anderson suggest easy, low-cost strategies for improving journalists' connections with multicultural communities. They advise reporters to:

- Do more than just report about annual multicultural festivals. They should also provide consistent, daily coverage about community issues. This involves reporters leaving the city centre, stock exchange, parliament and police headquarters, and going into suburbia to talk with ordinary people.
- Acquaint themselves with the people they cover through personal exchanges, links and friendships and not just formal interviews.
- Engage in 'mainstreaming', where they use ethnic sources not just for so-called 'ethnic issues' but also for 'mainstream issues' such as economics, business and politics.



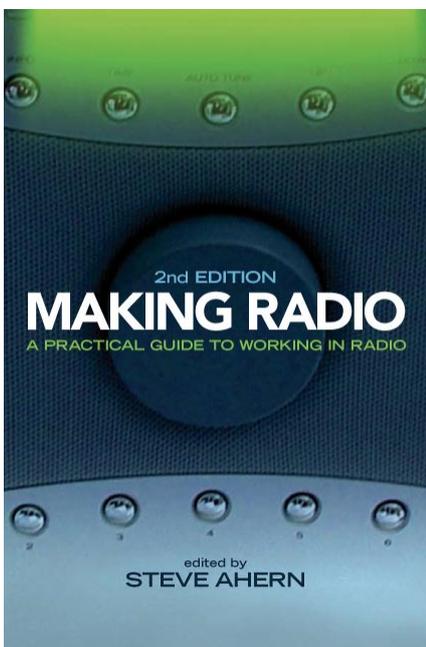
Dr Angela Romano is a senior lecturer in Journalism at the Queensland University of Technology. Angela conducts research on a wide range of issues relating to the media, including coverage of multicultural affairs and refugee issues. Angela previously worked as a journalist, and was the producer-editor of a radio series about asylum seekers and refugees that won the Best Radio category of the 2005 Media Peace Awards.

- Recognise that there is diversity within cultures.
- Bring perspectives from their own communities to the newsroom.
- Expand their coverage beyond the 'problem people' perspective of minorities.

The concept of 'mainstreaming' sources is particularly important. Are 'ethnic' people only quoted in stories about 'ethnic' issues, or do they appear in a range of stories that explore the community's health, lifestyle, leisure pursuits, economic development, and safety? Both journalists and other media workers alike could easily audit their own stories or programs to count how often they have used minority-group sources and how well they have represented the full social mix of people in their communities.

Mainstreaming should occur in both news and fictional/creative media products. News and current affairs purport to present an objective, factual account of our society, so they obviously help to shape Australians' understandings of our identity. However, Australians may be more influenced by the issues, stories and characters that they see and hear in talkback, music, soap opera, detective, lifestyle, 'reality', game and other programs that they use for pleasure than for information. For example, do Australian soap operas hire Indigenous actors, ladies in headscarves, or gentlemen with Sikh headdress to portray taxi drivers, school teachers, shopkeepers or other 'mainstream' characters? Or do people from these diverse backgrounds only appear when the soap opera's storyline specifically calls for an 'ethnic' character? The path to ensuring that people from diverse backgrounds are represented in everyday settings and doing everyday things—just like 'us', although with their own particular quirks or styles—remains an ongoing challenge.

Dr Angela Romano
Senior Lecturer in Journalism
Queensland University of Technology

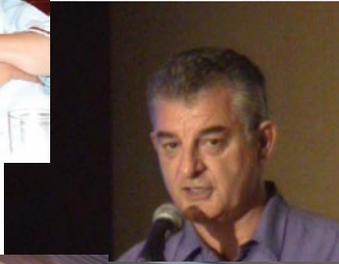


Making Radio is a practical guide for anyone who wants to learn how to make good radio. It examines the key roles in radio: announcing, presenting, research, copywriting, producing, marketing and promotions. It also outlines what is involved in creating different types of radio programs: news and current affairs, talkback, comedy and features.

The second edition of this widely used industry reference and student text has been fully updated to reflect the impact of digital technology on the radio world, including podcasting, multimedia devices and internet radio.

With contributions from industry experts, *Making Radio* should be at the side of every radio professional.

NEMBC/ AICA



CONFERENCE 2007





Oromo community celebrates one of the most successful Oromo conference ever held in Australia. NEMBC Membership Officer Shangale Ali reports

A group of concerned Oromo community members has wrapped up what is widely regarded as the community's most successful conference in Australia, held from 15 to 16 December 2007 at Footscray Campus, Victoria University. This conference was organised by Oromo radio programmers and a group of concerned Oromo nationals to provide a forum for Oromo civic and political organisations, intellectuals and individuals to discuss the challenges facing both our community in Australia and the Oromo national liberation movement.

The central theme of the Oromo conference was to facilitate robust discussions and dialogue among the Oromo community members and political organisations in Melbourne in regard to various strategic issues relating to the Oromo political situation and the means and ways of enhancing participations in the Oromo liberation movement.

At this conference some renowned scholars from the USA and Australia (both Oromo and Oromo friends) presented a great wealth of materials and information on various aspects of the Oromo nation's political and social issues. The conference attracted over 250 Oromo community members and was seen by many as the largest and most successful conference ever held in Australia.

Beyond the content presented at the conference, the Oromo Conference Melbourne 2007 provided an unprecedented networking forum for guest speakers and participants. The outstanding presentations made by the scholars undoubtedly contributed to the success of the conference beyond the expectations of the organising committee.

The organising committee believes that such conferences provide an open forum for lively and informative discussion that allow for the transformation of the current social and political obstacles facing Oromo communities and political organisations, at home and abroad. It also hopes that such conferences will be repeated in the future in Australia, and echoed in different places around the globe where many Oromo communities reside.

Once again, the organising committee of the Oromo Conference Melbourne 2007 would like to express its appreciation for all the help and support offered to organise such a successful conference and for the sense of optimism this has created in our ongoing struggle for unity and *bilisumma* (freedom).



SAY SORRY, BE SORRY, UNDERSTAND SORRY

Reconciliation Victoria welcomes the Rudd Labor government's decision to make the first act of the new parliament an act of reconciliation, by at last saying sorry to the Stolen Generations.

Developing a real reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is the most important issue facing our country.

Sorry is not about personal guilt. It is not about the government or the party; it is about this Nation, all of us, acknowledging a horrible set of policies and actions and a history of deliberately or well meaningly inflicting enormous pain, loss, theft, destruction and oppression.

Governments around the world have apologised for the events that have preceded their reign and most have paid compensation. It can be done and the world will not end if our government finds the guts to lead Australia and do what is right and decent.

Saying 'Sorry' is a start. Being sorry is what matters, and it is for this that a government will be remembered.

We hope that this very welcome step is the first of the many required steps towards justice and healing for Indigenous Australians, and towards the enrichment of non-Indigenous Australians in understanding our own past.

This move could mark the beginning of a new era—the point where we get back on track towards justice and reconciliation.

To make this a reality, the new government must now work towards implementing all of the recommendations of the 'Bringing Them Home' report and the long neglected recommendations of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Much of the work and consultation has already been done.

At last it is time for genuine action that will lead to genuine reconciliation and the inclusion of all citizens in the fabric of our nation.

Fire in the belly of the broadcaster

Shane Elson looks to the struggles of Bolivian tin miners broadcasting 50 years ago to find common ground with ethnic broadcasters in Australia.

Since the early days of community radio the importance of relevant information, educational programming, entertainment and connecting people have been the medium's mainstay. The first community radio practitioners in the tin mines of Bolivia realised this and pioneered the movement in the 40s and 50s.

These early practitioners realised that if their communities—exploited and living in the harshest of conditions—were to grow and reclaim their rightful place in those communities, then something needed to be done.

Not only were the broadcasters 'revolutionary' they also realised the need for patience and an 'evolutionary' approach to what they were doing.

They provided programs that were aimed at educating their audiences not only about the political and social struggle they were engaged in but also in basic numeracy and literacy. They realised that, should the revolution be successful, then not being able to participate fully in its benefits would mean they had failed their audiences.

Realising the power of music to inspire, soothe, entertain and reach the deepest parts of our soul, the broadcasters included music from the outlying regions—as well as a good mix of popular tunes.

These early broadcasters grew in their awareness of the power of the medium they were using. They were also aware of the power of the mine bosses to close them down, persecute and otherwise make life for them even more difficult than it already was. However, they persevered and did, indeed, change their communities and challenge the power of the mine bosses and their backers.

So, what has all this got to do with you? Quite a lot and I think the great work being done by the hundreds of ethnic broadcasters here in Australia can find parallels with the Bolivian tin mine broadcasters and take inspiration from them.

Ethnic broadcasting—a term I find somewhat problematic, but that's for another discussion—here in Australia has a long and proud history of engagement with communities whose first experience of Australia might not have been as exciting as expected.

Looking back to the pioneers of ethnic broadcasting here in Australia we find a similar desire to the aspirations of the tin mine broadcasters. There was a fire in the belly of those pioneers to educate, inform, entertain and connect people whose first language was not English.

That tradition carries on today and still provides these same basic services. However, new challenges are emerging for all broadcasters. New technologies are transforming the ways people stay 'connected' to their roots and inspire their communities to be proud of their heritage.

I mentioned earlier that the tin mine broadcasters were both 'revolutionary' and 'evolutionary' thinkers about their work. In many ways ethnic broadcasters need to take the same approach as the demographic of the communities they broadcast to changes.

As we all know, change within communities usually comes slowly yet, from time to time, revolutions come along that change the ways people interact, relate and exchange information and knowledge. We are living in revolu-

tionary times and the emerging and maturing technologies challenge the way we broadcast.

Podcasting, internet radio, file sharing—even the simple act of copying a CD or cassette for a friend, telephony, international subscription news services and other technologies allow people to stay in touch far more easily and in a more timely manner than ever before.

Perhaps the only thing that has really changed since those first community radio broadcasts to the tin mining communities is the way that communication takes place. It's my firm belief that traditional radio will never die. However, I do believe it needs to evolve to ensure that the new audiences it can attract are served in a way that does meet their needs.

But let's not forget about the struggles that are still continuing in many countries as community radio practitioners in those places find the conditions they face not much different than the tin miners in Bolivia.

In many countries there are emerging community radio stations (and some TV stations as well) that operate tenuously. In many countries there are no provisions for community broadcasting and those who do access the airwaves find themselves facing rough treatment, even death.

In other countries there is legislation that allows for community broadcasting but restricts the power output to only a few watts. In other places the legislation is there but, due to commercial influences, community radio broadcasters are shut down either by the police or by thugs hired by the commercials.

'There was a fire in the belly of those pioneers to educate, inform, entertain and connect people whose first language was not English.'

We should not forget these struggles. They were once ours to varying degrees.

Community radio in Australia has always been innovative, operated on a shoestring budget and relevant. Ethnic broadcasters, both those serving the more established communities and those reaching out to emerging communities, have a rich heritage to draw from.

Perhaps now is good time to reflect on the past and prepare for the future. Perhaps even include in those future plans ways in which you or your station can reach out and 'partner' up with a station overseas. There are many who would appreciate even a brief email offering solidarity and best wishes. Our strength could be their inspiration.

It's been a long journey from those early days in the tin mines but the journey is by no means over. The future beckons and, as they say, waits for no one. Ethnic broadcasting in Australia will continue to play an important and vital role in enriching and enlivening all of us. To forget where we came from would be a tragedy. To not plan where we're going would be equally as unforgivable.

Shane Elson is the Treasurer of the Asia Pacific branch of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). AMARC's website is www.amarc.org and the Asia Pacific site is www.asiapacific.amarc.org

He is also the Vice-President, Radio, of the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia. Shane teaches radio journalism and production at Monash and Swinburne Universities.

What's Happening At Your Station



Start Small Think Big

City Park Radio, Launceston

City Park Radio 103.7 FM in Launceston values its role as a community broadcaster and especially its role in local multicultural broadcasts. Our multicultural presenters bring a lot more than their national heritage to their programs. They are heavily involved in all aspects of their community and their radio programs are just another vehicle to showcase these contributions. Many of our presenters are also involved and energise their local 'cooperatives' and associations. Others are involved in education classes not only teaching languages but other styles of adult education courses. Our Sierre Leone programmer John Kamara is the main driver behind the local African choir, performing and recording their music. Maree Barnes regularly teaches French cooking. Umi Quor is heavily involved in the Ethnic Communities Council and Luigi Romanelli is investigating the possibility of an oral history series on the early Italians in Tasmania.

Such community experience can only enhance the contribution community radio can help in reflecting the true nature of the community back to them.

Many presenters have had no experience in presenting programs let alone been in a radio studio. Training is a vital part of bringing budding presenters up to speed. The CBF and CBAA regularly advertise and promote official training courses and qualifications. But long before any station can get to that stage, the community has to walk through the door, and they do not come in convenient blocks of ten for presenter training each month.

We always need presenters and they just appear when the urge takes them to get involved. They may have heard a multicultural program and

thought, 'Hey, I'd like to do that'. We have found the most important aspect is never to say no upfront. If someone wants to make a radio program, City Park Radio welcomes their proposal. We make every effort to make new members feel welcome when they initially walk through the door. We take a genuine interest in what they want to do and encourage them every step of the way to reach their potential. After a solid in-house introduction, new members are encouraged to involve themselves in a supported self-learning program.

At City Park Radio we conduct local training every three or four months or when we have a number of people to train. The station is flexible in training, some presenters becoming proficient before completing the compulsory induction training. The induction training explains our history, the role of community radio, rules and regulations of the station, program structure and presentation, studio equipment and operation, the content requirements in funded programs, as well as touching on defamation and other legal issues that will affect them and the station. And did we mention our



Maree-Josée Barnes and Umi Quor

What's Happening At Your Station

code of conduct? Just a reminder of how everyone—and we mean everyone—should show each other respect and tolerance irrespective of their status in the station, and value their contribution to the station.

For a small station, we think City Park Radio has the right atmosphere to assist our community to help themselves, providing the opportunities to ensure the local voice is on community radio. It starts with a good welcome, and lasts with continuing respect and encouragement.

Chris Ball
Station Manager
City Park Radio



*Mike Dumphy, Maree-Josee Barnes
and Umi Quor*

3ZZZ Radio

Me and radio

It was radio and literature, these two culture-spreading tools, which built my knowledge of the world and people most strongly; they formed my moral attitude, delivered the richest emotions, they entertained. I am a radio and book addict. This is perhaps explained by the theory that one connects most deeply with what accompanies one's early childhood. Radio of the 1940s, 50s and 60s defined my taste. It is responsible for my partiality to melodic music, swinging jazz and radio programs.

Every time I moved into a new place, the first thing I did was to check what plays were on the radio, then to sign up for a membership at the local library. Television, which appeared in the late 1950s, has never created such a strong bond.

One of the idols of my youth was a great Voice of America personality Willis Conover. This world-famous producer, critic and jazz promoter always began his *Jazz Hour* program with a Billy Strayhorn standard 'Take the A Train' played by Duke Ellington. Later, I used to spend hours with my ear glued to the radio receiver tuned into the forbidden Western stations like Radio Luxemburg or Monte Carlo. I used to catch not just melodies, percussion solos, but also single foreign words sung by Edith Piaf, Yves Montand, Maurice Chevalier, as well as early Bee Gees or The Beatles and the young Johnny Farnham. These moments motivated me to learn English. These names, as of most Western performers, were absent from the radio in Poland. Then, the Polish ether was filled with the soc-realist performances of Soviet bards—such were the political realities of central Europe.

Today, I do not have to be concerned with politics—I accept that the world cannot do without politics and politicians, but this is not my field. I passionately dislike all things connected with politics. It is great to know there are countries, such as Australia, where we can live peacefully and work towards improving the world not through politics, but for example through music and literature.

After a long career in engineering, it was in my retirement that I was able to begin cultivating the arts of radio and literature. Since 2001, I have been a producer and presenter of musical programs of the Polish Group at Radio 3ZZZ. Each fourth Saturday I present the *Musical Memories Magazine*, for which I prepared such series as *History of Tango* (23 episodes), *History of Operetta* (12 episodes), *An Old Portrait with Songs* (20 episodes about popular performers), and *Attic Full of Songs* (86 episodes)—all were based on original archival recordings. I am currently working on a cultural program for each third Saturday, collaborating with Malgorzata Zuchowska, Przemyslaw Merski, Tadeusz Zurek and Ireneusz Kolacz.

The listeners of my programs can experience a pleasant surprise in finding old hits from the 1930s and 40s. For the

What's Happening At Your Station

great part, there is a soothing sentimental and melodic theme to the presented music, something to deliver us from the overwhelming aggression, vulgarity and noise of modern life.

What does 3ZZZ mean to me? It is a tool for sharing my music collection with a wider audience, sharing the joyful feelings which the music brings out. Our listeners are mostly of a similar age to mine, i.e. older. It is a great privilege and satisfaction to know that the listeners are there, to feel their joy and gratitude, and to help each other in living a good old age. Their phone calls make me confident that our work is not wasted.

The art of radio is not easy. Luckily, there are the three cannons of radio production: first, you have to love the listener; secondly, you have to know ten times more than what you present; and, last but not least, you never brag about what you know (listeners cannot stand that). That is all one needs to make good radio programs.

With great pleasure, I am able to extend the reach of my audio and film archives beyond the radio format. We organise music appreciation soirées as part of the literary club at the Polish Seniors Home in Rowville, the Polish Retiree Home in Bayswater and with our circle of friends. In the near future we are planning to present the following soirees: That Good Old Jazz, History of Tango (again due to popular demand) and The Greatest Jazz Pianists.

Until next time, then...

Henryk Jurewicz
Polish Program
3ZZZ



Mauritian Community Broadcasting Group

The Mauritian program has been involved with radio 3ZZZ ever since its inception in 1984. The Mauritian Broadcasting Group participated in pilot broadcasts in 1987 and 1988, and in the launch of the station in June 1989.

Initially a one-hour program, the MCBG was granted a second hour in 1992. To this day, the program is broadcast every Saturday from 12 noon to 2.00 pm in French and in Creole.

The *Mauritian Program* on 3ZZZ has a wide audience. It is heard live across the Melbourne Metropolitan region, as far as Geelong to the west and Macedon to the north. The target audience is made up mostly of Mauritians, Rodriguans and Seychellois living in Victoria. Indian Ocean islanders living in other states also listen to the program through the help of friends and relations who regularly record the program for them and send it on.

As the program is archived on the internet for a week, the *Mauritian Program* is also picked up by expats living in other parts of the globe such as Canada and the UK.

The program is the responsibility of a committee of seven, elected every two years by the financial members. The current convenor is Gérard Laville. The 15-member broadcast team is made up entirely of volunteers who work in teams of four or five each Saturday to prepare and present programs, carry out interviews, operate the panel or answer the phone on a rostered basis.

With a focus on the community, the program includes news from Mauritius, interviews, music including segas and French songs, community reports, cultural and historical segments, requests and quizzes and also covers events of significance such as Republic Day of Mauritius, Australia Day, La Faya Festival, etc. It is the voice of the Mauritian community of Melbourne and

What's Happening At Your Station

acts as a link between Mauritians in Victoria and compatriots living in other parts of the globe.

At various stages during the year, the broadcast team prepares and presents special programs to mark special days and occasions such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas and New Year. Members of the team attend functions in the community to record interviews. Every year, Mauritians and Rodriguans living in and around Melbourne are given the opportunity to record personal messages to their relatives and friends in their home country. These are then sent to the Mauritian Broadcasting Commission to be played on the local airwaves at Christmas. This is a much anticipated yearly event both here and in Mauritius. Some of the messages are quite moving.



The team is constantly seeking to review and improve its performance. The program caters not only for those members of the community who are now in their twilight years but also the younger generation, most of whom were either born here or have grown up in Australia.

The *Mauritian Program* has occasionally provided training and broadcasting opportunities to young French people who have come to Melbourne to complete an internship as part of their media studies, welcoming them into the team and involving them in our broadcasts.

The *Mauritian Program* has been a staunch supporter and promoter of community activities such as the Mauritian La Faya Festival and the Immigration Museum Project 'Beyond the Postcard Image—Mauritians and Rodriguans in Victoria'. The program actively supports the various clubs and organisations that look after the interests of Mauritians, Rodriguans and Seychellois in Melbourne, such as the Françoise Babet Leukaemia Foundation and the Society in Aid of Children Inoperable in Mauritius (SACIM).

The *Mauritian Program* at 3ZZZ also promotes artists of Mauritian, Rodriguan and Seychellois origin, whether living here in Australia, in Mauritius or other parts of the world. It also highlights the achievements of members of these communities. The program provides young people who come to study in Australia a link with home.

The Mauritian Broadcast Team makes a significant contribution to the host station, 3ZZZ. For a number of years, the program consistently raised well above the required group target, and was the highest achieving group in the annual radiothon six years in a row.

One of our most significant achievements in recent years has been an outside broadcast from Federation Square on Saturday the 13th of March 2004. The occasion: the first La Faya festival, which was officially opened on Friday the 12th of March and was to continue over the next two days. As this was the first time this festival was held, the organisers were unsure of attendance. It was most satisfying to observe the crowds pouring out of Flinders Street Station as we broadcast from the Square and to hear people say: 'As we were listening to you from home, we just had to come. It sounded so exciting.'

It has been recognised that it was our live broadcast that pulled the large crowd on that Saturday.

In 2007, the *Mauritian Program* was the proud recipient of an Excellence Award for 'Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria'.

Orietta Wheatley
Mauritian Program
3ZZZ

What Community Broadcasters Should Know About The Northern Territory Intervention And What They Can Do About It

*A paper presented by Jim Remedio at the CBAA National
Conference in Melbourne in November 2007*

Good morning everyone. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners—the Wurrunggerri people Wom-injeka (or welcome).

On a recent visit to the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) in Alice Springs, SBS *Dateline* presenter George Negus was asked by a cadet journalist what his thoughts were, following the federal government intervention into Northern Territory Aboriginal communities. His response was, and I quote: 'It is undoubtedly in breach of probably every United Nations Human Rights and Indigenous Rights Declaration or Covenant ever brought down'. He made the comment: 'Where does that leave Australia in the eyes of the world?'

Today, I would like to share with you my observations, from a community broadcaster's perspective, on the real fallout in Central Australia since the July 2007 state of emergency. When the federal government declared a 'state of emergency' and brought out the Northern Territory Regiment, images come to mind of the total disintegration of a society. A state of emergency is usually proclaimed as a result of natural disasters, or in extreme cases, civil unrest. Think of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and the Darwin and North Queensland cyclones. When a federal government brings in the army, it sends the message that you have a failed state, and that all governance and civil order is in chaos. Was this really the state of things in the Northern Territory? Howard has said he needed to declare a state of emergency in the Northern Territory following the 'Little Children Are Sacred' report. The report actually said that Aboriginal child sexual abuse in the Northern Territory should be designated as an issue of urgent national significance, and provided 97 recommendations as a way to do this. Aboriginal people, almost as one, are in support of these recommendations. Yet the measures taken bear no relation to the recommendations in that report. The very first, and most important recommendation, was that 'the government commit to genuine consultation with Aboriginal people in designing initiatives'. As you know, there was no consultation, not even any notice. Here's what the Intervention put in place:

Intervention Measures

Affects about 40,000 people in 73 'prescribed communities'—every Aborigine not living in the suburbs of major towns.

- CDEP abolished: participants moved onto welfare
- Compulsory income management: quarantining of 50-100% of ALL welfare payments, regardless of your behaviour
- Changes to Land Rights: compulsory five-year leases of community land, native title suspended
- Removal of Permit System
- Criminal law and bail: bans on customary law but other cultures can still have their cultural beliefs taken into account
- Alcohol and Pornography bans
- Government Business Managers for each community with wide-ranging powers
- Community stores to be controlled and required to participate in income management
- Compulsory health checks for children

There is no correlation between the justification used by Howard and Brough for the Intervention and the An-

derson Wilde report. None of these things were recommended. What they did take direction from was an ideology promoted through conservative think-tanks including the Centre for Independent Studies, and the Institute of Public Affairs, who receive significant support from large corporations, particularly mining companies—in the case of Cape York Institute \$40 Million of federal-funded taxpayer money. These think-tanks have close links with the Howard government and are significantly supported and promoted through mainstream media, especially *The Australian* newspaper. The thing with think-tanks is that they can produce research that does not come under the same scrutiny as academic research and therefore does not reach the same level of credibility as proper academic research.

To date, since the Intervention, there have been only two referrals, no arrests, and no convictions from Central Australia since the army and doctors arrived to do health checks. The legislation for the intervention has included only two of the recommendations from the report and has been used to bludgeon Aboriginal communities into the new assimilation pogrom (and I do mean pogrom). Of particular concern to me—and which should be of concern to all of us here today - is the government's suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, which was necessary to make these measures possible.

Some of you may rightly ask: What has the Intervention got to do with community broadcasting? Isn't the Intervention a good thing? And what's the connection with community broadcasting anyway? We live in a country of many nations and many languages. Community radio broadcasters, whatever our makeup, have running through us a common thread that binds us all together as broadcasters. That common thread is expressed through the Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice. The guiding principles of the code include to:

- Promote harmony and diversity in contributing to a cohesive, inclusive and culturally diverse Australian community.
- Pursue the principles of democracy, access and equity, especially to people and issues under-represented in other media.
- Demonstrate independence in their programming, editorial and management.

Code I aims to ensure that these 'guiding principles' are reflected in the day-to-day activities of stations. In Code I.4, we commit to policies and practices which: 'oppose and attempt to break down prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, race, chosen language, gender, sexual preference, religion, age, physical or mental ability, occupation, cultural belief or political affiliation.' By contrast, in commercial radio codes of practice, the licensee must not broadcast a program which is 'likely' to incite or perpetuate hatred against or vilify any person or group on the basis of age, ethnicity, race etc.

Beyond this, we all acknowledge that commercial shock jocks are the 'most likely' person or group to incite, perpetuate, or vilify any group or persons on the basis of race or ethnicity. But in community broadcasting the difference is that our role is active. Our responsibility as community broadcasters is to adhere to the Codes of Practice, and oppose discrimination, especially when we see that the freedoms and rights of one section of our community are being stripped away.



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The mainstream media came out and supported the government Intervention, with *The Australian* newspaper the shock jocks of print media in Australia—leading the charge on issues such as the scrapping of the permit system, quarantining of welfare payments and scrapping of the CDEP. On the other hand, community radio current affairs program *The Wire* took the time to provide our sector with a balanced view of current affairs, and I congratulate *The Wire* team for their commitment to the community and their adherence to the Codes of Practice. Following a continuing mass migration of Aboriginal people from the Northern Territory to Coober Pedy in South Australia, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Mal Brough said ‘it did not matter if people moved to the “gold coast”’. The rules of quarantining 50% of welfare payments would ‘follow them’. There is no escape.

The mayor of Coober Pedy pleaded for government assistance to help his remote town cope with the influx. He said, ‘there has been a marked increase in the number of Indigenous people in the town’ and that it was ‘unacceptable for Aboriginal people to sleep on the street’. He went on to say: ‘It’s a concern, we now have over 300 displaced people here. That’s a 10% increase in our population, we have nowhere to house these people.’ He said that for many years they had been lobbying the government for short-term accommodation and, ‘our view is that the federal government is responsible for the situation because of the Intervention’. In my view, these displaced people meet the criteria under the United Nations Human Rights Commission as internally displaced people. The definition of internally displaced persons according to the UNHRC is: ‘People forced to flee their homes but who, unlike refugees, remain within their countries borders.’ The situation is the same throughout the Territory as people desert communities as services and access decline. The government’s policy of ‘starving out’ communities is beginning to take effect. In Alice Springs, Aboriginal people are now forced to line up at a Centrelink bus a long walk from the shops on Saturday mornings to receive their Centrelink quarantined payment.

Picture this: because there is child abuse in your community (and you know there is) that all of you have to go to one end of town to line up at a bus to get access to your money before you can go shopping at a designated supermarket. Consider, too, that it will cost approximately \$8000 in administration costs per person to quarantine half their income. No matter what your own personal view, a civil society as ours, built on a fair go and a social conscience, should not be treating its people in such a despicable way.

On the downside for business, motel accommodation is in short supply in Alice Springs as the Intervention team take up accommodation that would otherwise be booked by tourists and others. This can only impact on the whole town economy as well as tourism in the Territory. Stripping away the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)—wrongly referred to by mainstream media as sit down money—has pushed people to the edge of despair and poverty as they see no future for themselves or their children. Community radio stations, and remote BRACS units who relied heavily on CDEP to run their stations now face closure and reports are reaching the national peak body for media AICA of their plight.

CDEP was a work program. It was removed so people could be put on welfare and their payments controlled, as the government didn’t have the power to quarantine people’s actual wages. The spin used is ‘managed income’. Between 7,000 and 8,000 people in the Territory have now been thrown out of work and had their welfare payments ‘income managed’. CAAMA alone, one of the largest community broadcasters in Australia, has lost five CDEP positions. This loss will impact on CAAMA’s capacity to deliver. Imagine what it is like in the other more remote centres, when their radio staff and employment opportunities are scrapped. These positions have been lost as a direct result of the Intervention to protect Aboriginal children from sexual abuse. Are you confused? So are we.

Code No. 1: Responsibilities of Broadcasting to the Community—Principles of Democracy, Diversity and Independence

Community Broadcasting stations will:

1.2 Be controlled and operated by an autonomous body who is representative of the licensee’s community of interest.

1.3 Have organisational mechanisms to provide for active participation by the licensee’s community in its management, development and operations.

1.4 Incorporate policies that apply to all station activities, which oppose and attempt to break down prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, race, chosen language, gender, sexual preference, religion, age, physical or mental ability,

occupation, cultural belief or political affiliation.

What is more, look at Code 1.2: 'be controlled and operated by an autonomous body which is representative of the licensee's community of interest.' There are ten community radio licensees in the prescribed areas and the licence holders are the community councils of these communities. Under the 'Business Management' part of the Intervention, the government can appoint managers to run these community councils. These managers have enormous potential powers. They can seize assets and sell them, regardless of whether they were bought with government funds or income earned by the community. They can unilaterally alter funding agreements. They can tell people what they can say and what they can't say, to perform specific services and to 'desist or refrain' from others. In this environment, all sense of autonomous community control is gone. How can a community licensee continue under these conditions? They will be in breach of their licence.

Again, I ask you to consider if this was your station. Have you spent years building your station to have this happen because Well, why is it happening? Aboriginal people are powerless against outfits such as The Cape York Institute—a non-democratic, non-representative body that speaks on Indigenous issues without authority from a membership. Yet it claims to represent and speak on behalf of Australia's Indigenous people. As a result the Northern Territory's Indigenous people are being experimented on, with national application to follow. These are policies of discrimination and division in what appears to be 'a gulag for the Aboriginal people'. As a result people are now leaving their communities and are being forced off their land again. It's their land, it's their home.

Remote communities on these lands are now becoming deserted as stores shut down, CDEP programs are cut off, and in one case that has come to our attention, the threat of water being cut off because council did not have the sufficient funds to pay. Under this threat people just left. And as they leave, their houses are being pilfered of solar panels, generator sets and water tanks. Maybe the sceptics are right: is it just a land grab? Maybe we should ask, as George Negus did, 'what does the rest of the world think?'

The dilemma for me and many other Indigenous people in mixed partnerships is: What do I tell my children—my Torres Strait Island child and my extended family of white children? How does a father explain such extreme racism to them? What would their great grandfather think about the Australia he fought for on the Somme during the Great War? So I hope you can have a think about what you can do as community broadcasters.

I mean: 'What bloody hope have we got?' Thank you for listening to me today.

Jim Remedio
Radio Manager, CAAMA
Chair, AICA

For further information:

www.icnn.com.au
www.caama.com.au
www.the wire.com.au
www.Womenforwik.com.au
www.nirs.org.au

CBF GRANT OPPORTUNITIES – ETHNIC GRANTS

Round 2 2007/08 Ethnic grants are now open.

Make sure you read the guidelines carefully - there have been a few changes since the last round.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the CBF website.

Applications close for all Ethnic grants on the 7th of April 2008.

One of the changes to the program grant guidelines is that eligible programs are expected to contain a high proportion of local material. This refers to spoken content, not music, and is intended to encourage you to read content yourself rather than replaying news or audio content from other sources.

It is a common experience for ethnic broadcasters to spend their own money on CDs, phonecards for overseas interviews and to access news items. You put in so many hours to broadcast news, information and music to your community—but the costs can really start to add up! Did you know that the Community Broadcasting Foundation provides grants to assist ethnic language programs on community stations, and that you can use a percentage of the grant to help cover these costs of producing your program?

Details about the process, with guidelines and application forms, are available from the CBF website: www.cbf.com.au. After you've had a look there, if you have any questions you can call the CBF.

Applications for Round 2 2007/08 Ethnic Program and Development grants close on the 7th of April 2008. The application E1 with summary E2 and relevant E3s should be accompanied by the minutes of the meeting at which ethnic broadcasters and station management agreed how to spend the Round 1 2007/08 grant. A pro forma which you can use for those minutes is on the CBF website as Appendix 3 to the Ethnic Program Guidelines.

If your program started on the station less than 12 months ago, and is for a community that has not been served by the station before, your station may be eligible to apply on your behalf for a Development Grant to help your program get started. The grant is to allow you to buy materials such as CDs and internet access up to \$1,000; if yours is a defined new and emerging community, you can apply for up to \$1,500 for additional costs such as specialised training and purchase of portable recording equipment.

NEW ETHNIC GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Following the NEMBC conference late in 2007 the Ethnic Grants Advisory Committee farewelled its outgoing chair Indra Esguerra and alternate member Theresa Grima. Heinrich Stefanik (ICMS Canberra) and Inoke Fotu Huakau (2000 Sydney) were re-elected to EGAC, and joining the committee are Luchi Santer from Darwin and alternate member Darce Cassidy from Melbourne. Heinrich is the new chair of the committee and nominee to the CBF Board.

OTHER CBF GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY STATIONS

The CBF can also help if you need training to develop your broadcast skills. Through Broadcast Training Grants, a station can apply for a grant to deliver up to four units of accredited broadcast skills training. Wouldn't you like to know how to do a talkback program? Or learn how to use computer software to edit an interview? Those are just two of the topics you can take to improve your program. The next round closes on the 21st of April 2008. Contact CBF Training Grants Administrator Jo Curtin for more information.

Grants are also available for your station to buy transmission equipment and to receive a subsidy for transmission operational expenses such as site fees and transmission electricity costs. The next round closes on the 12th of March. Why don't you bring this to the attention of your station manager? Contact Transmission Grants Administrator Barbara Baxter for more information.

NEWS

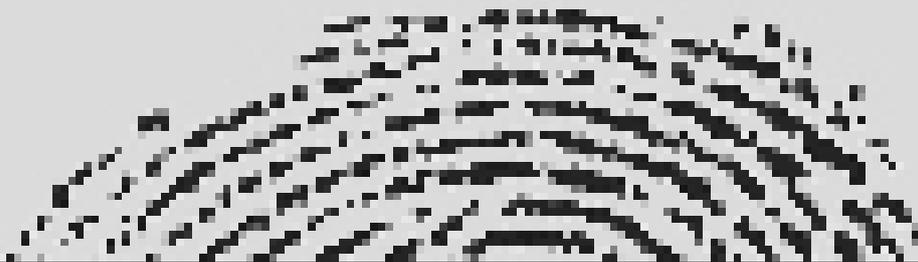
The CBF sends out a monthly electronic newsletter full of the latest information on CBF grants. To receive CBF news and reminders about grant closing dates direct to your own email address, subscribe at the CBF website. The CBF Update is a free service offered by the Foundation, and is one of the easiest ways of keeping up to date with ethnic and other CBF grants information.

CURRENT CBF GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	
Grant Category	Due Date
Ethnic Grants	7 April 08
General Grants	5 Sept 08
Indigenous Grants	7 April 08
RPH Grants	9 July 08
Satellite Grants	Any time
Training Grants	21 April 08
Transmission Grants	12 March 08

**For more information on CBF grants see the CBF website
or speak to a CBF grants administrator:**

Barbara Baxter – Ethnic & Transmission Support Grants
Heath Rickard – Indigenous, Satellite reception equipment and DDN grants
Jo Curtin – General, RPH & Training Grants

Phone: 03 9419 8055
Fax: 03 9419 8352
Post: PO Box 1354 Collingwood VIC 3066
Email: info@cbf.com.au
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Community Broadcasting Foundation Ltd

NEWS!

from the

NEMBC Youth Committee

2008 is looking like an exciting and busy year for the NEMBC Youth Committee. We would like to share with our readers and NEMBC members what the year ahead holds for youth broadcasting and the Committee.

Firstly, we'd like to welcome some new faces to the NEMBC Youth Committee. At the recent NEMBC Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 11th November 2007, members of the NEMBC Youth Committee were elected for a two-year term. Welcome to Milijana Vojnovic (WA rep), Kevin Kadrigamar (NT rep) and Peter Chiodo (NSW rep). We'd also like to offer a great big thank you to the departing youth representatives Paula Tsakisiris, Michael Siriotis and Anthony Colombo for all the hard work and effort they have put into the NEMBC Youth Committee.

The current members of the Youth Committee are:

Adam Lo (Chairperson), QLD
Jagdeep Shergill, VIC
Peter Chiodo, NSW
Kevin Kadrigamar, NT
Abraham Kon Alier, SA
Paul Xu Wang, TAS
Milijana Vojnovic, WA
Gemo Virobo, ACT

At the NEMBC 2007 National Conference, members of the Youth Committee facilitated a workshop discussion about the implications of digital radio for ethnic youth broadcasting. The discussions from that workshop will go into youth committee policy and project development. For more information about the ideas that came from that workshop, please refer to the article on digital radio within this issue.

In follow up to the ideas generated from the conference workshop, the Youth Committee have proposed that the NEMBC house a webcast of different ethnic youth programs from around Australia. This project would be a template for what could eventually go to air on digital radio in anticipation of the digital radio rollout in 2009. The Youth Committee itself could be a model for the kind of state-based and national content management committee structures required for the rollout of digital radio.

In 2008, members of the Youth Committee will be building a network of broadcasters in their states and formalising those groups into state-based committees that feed recommendations to the NEMBC youth representatives. To enhance and inform those state-based committees, the Youth Committee will in 2008 begin holding state-based Radioactive Multicultural Youth Broadcasters' forums, staggered throughout the year.

The Committee will also embark upon a strategic planning weekend this year where it will formulate policies, strategies and project ideas to increase youth participation and formalise its vision for the NEMBC Youth Committee. The Committee will be utilising the ideas, discussions and feedback received from youth broadcasters at both the national conferences and the Radioactive Multicultural Youth Broadcasters' Forum.

We look forward to being able to share with you the outcomes of these projects and ideas.

Marijana Bosnjak
Youth Coordinator
NEMBC

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FROM ETHNIC BROADCASTERS!

BE A PART OF THE NEMBC NATIONAL JOURNAL!

The NEMBC produces a national journal, *The Ethnic Broadcaster*, four times a year. We'd LOVE to know what's going on in your communities, at your stations and with the programs you broadcast. Let us know your experiences in broadcasting, your ideas about multiculturalism and cultural diversity, or issues or concerns relating to ethnic and new and emerging communities. We have a number of regular columns, including 'What's Happening at Your Station?', which focuses on activities at stations, as well as sections on Women and Youth in broadcasting.

So get involved today! And let your voice be heard.

We are seeking:

- Articles or stories: personal, political, opinion, humour
- News: relating to your community or to broadcasting
- What's on in your area, or at your station?
- Programming ideas: Share what works for you
- Graphics, comics, poems
- Or any other information of interest to you, your community or your station.

*For more information or to submit an item contact
Julia at the NEMBC on (03) 9486 9549 or email: admin@nembc.org.au*



NEMBC Youth Awards 2007

And the winners are...

The turnout of youth broadcasters to the inaugural 2007 NEMBC-AICA National Conference was impressive and in amongst all the excitement and energy, it proved to be a great space to celebrate the work of young ethnic and multicultural broadcasters. Youth broadcasters were acknowledged at the conference dinner through the presentation of the 2007 NEMBC Youth Awards. Thank you to all who entered the NEMBC Youth Awards. Congratulations to the following broadcasters and programs, who received the awards and prizes at the conference dinner.

The winner of the Multicultural/Ethnic Youth Program of the Year was the youth program *NeoVoices*, which airs on Mondays at 6-7 pm on Radio Adelaide. Abraham Alier, a long-time presenter and producer of the program, received the award on behalf of the *NeoVoices* team. *NeoVoices* began in 2003 and is produced and presented by young broadcasters from New and Emergent communities such as Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan and Eritrea. *NeoVoices* has received this award because it is a great example of a program that actively seeks to train and empower young broadcasters and provides a space for young people from new and emergent communities to express the settlement experience of young people in Australia.

This year we introduced a new award category—the Best New Talent Award 2007. This award went out to *Whadjuk Radio*, an Indigenous radio program broadcast from Perth's full-time ethnic station 6EBA 95.3FM. The award was received on behalf of the *Whadjuk Radio* team by the show's producer Ethel Wallam. The program debuted in February 2007 and broadcasts across the Perth metro area from the 6EBA Maylands studios. It is presented by Indigenous youth broadcasters (between the age of 14 and 28) and covers culture, the arts, sport, community events, education, careers and live music.

Whadjuk Radio has received the award based on the outstanding production values and content, and clearly demonstrates youth broadcasters being a part of cultural and language maintenance.

Marijana Bosnjak
Youth Coordinator
NEMBC

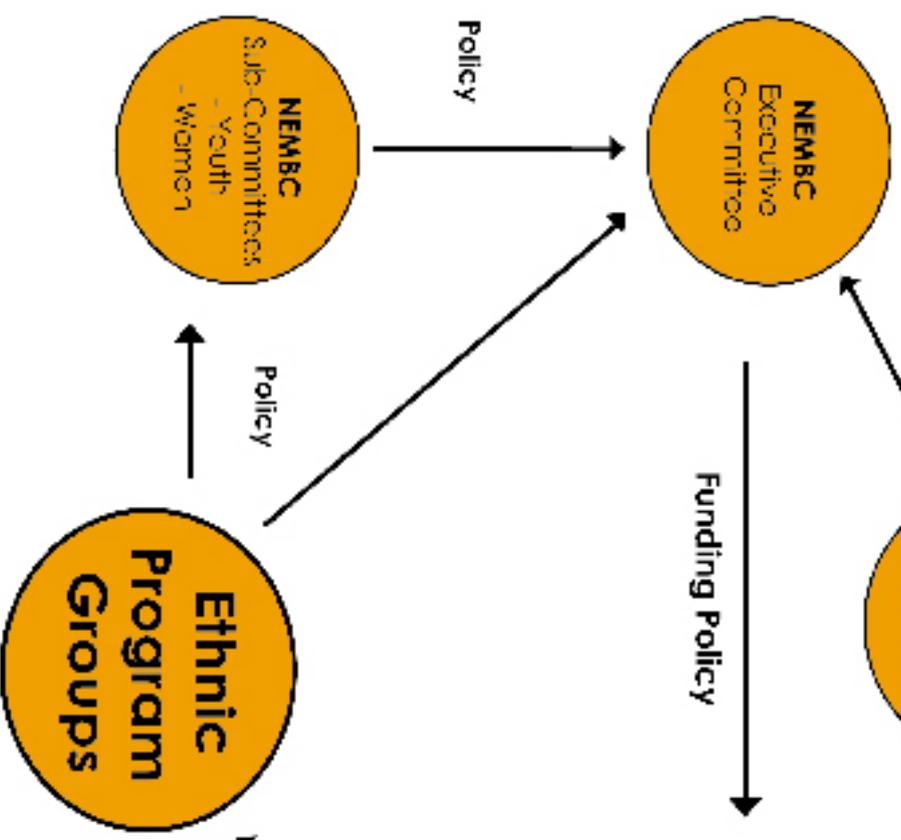
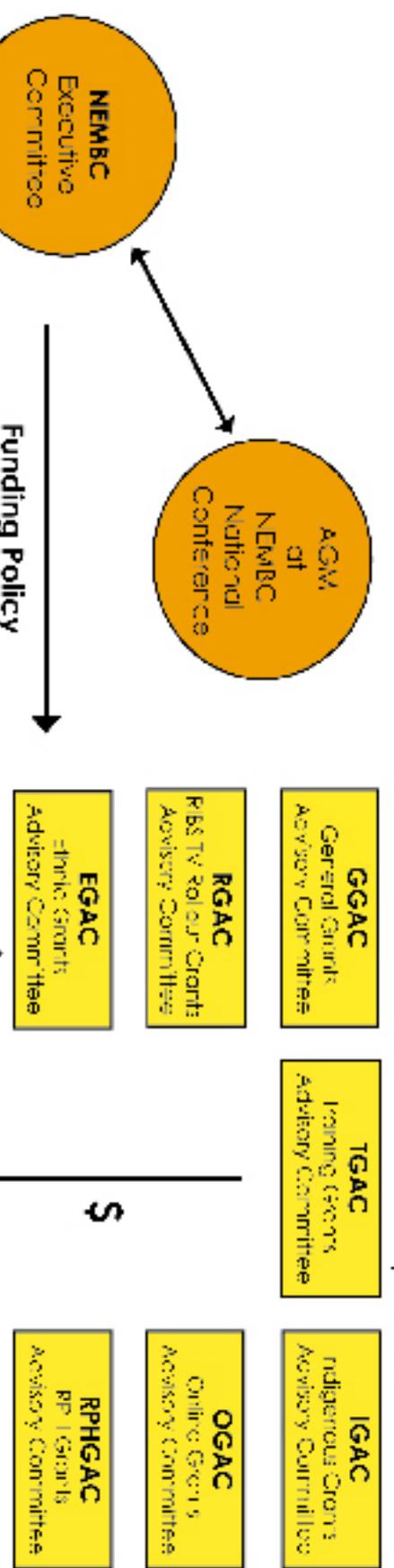


NEMBC Youth Committee member Milijana Vojnovic and Ethel Wallam—received Best New Talent Award on behalf of 6EBA Indigenous program, Whadjuk Radio.



(L-R) Abraham Alier, Marijana Bosnjak, Itzel Sesma, Jagdeep Shergill, Marisa Vugdelija, Milijana Vojnovic, Adam Lo, Ethel Wallam at the Youth Awards.

GAC Members elected at respective AGMs



Sector Organisation Chart

