

MEDIA RELEASE



NBN MAKING NEWS AS IT CELEBRATES 20,000 BULLETINS

Australia's highest rating television station will reach an industry milestone the week starting March 26, 2006 when its award winning news service celebrates its 20,000th bulletin.

On March 26, NBN News will begin a week of special reports looking back over 44 years of news coverage, featuring the many significant events that have helped shape our lives. The series will recapture events that rattled the world, to tales of humour, personal achievement and tragedy from our own backyard or the far flung corners of the globe.

NBN's commitment to providing the nation's best news service began on March 4, 1962 when the station's first news bulletin was aired in Newcastle and the Hunter. A decade later in April, Murray Finlay presented NBN's first hour of news. Over the years, NBN's commitment to its local communities has been strongly reflected in its flagship hour-long 6pm weekday news, early news, late news, updates, and weekend bulletins. NBN's weekday bulletin is the longest running one hour service in Australia.

NBN's 6pm bulletin now reaches a potential audience in northern NSW of 1.9 million, stretching from the Hawkesbury River to the Gold Coast and as far west as Lightning Ridge, and remains the only news service providing viewers with the best of local, state, national and overseas coverage.

Steering the news through aggregation and into the digital era, Jim Sullivan took on the job in March 1985, and is one of the nation's longest serving News Directors.

NBN's News team boasts a loyal frontline. Co-anchor Ray Dinneen, one of Australia's longest serving news readers, has been in the chair for 30 years guiding generations of viewers through important world and local events. Other news readers including John Church, Melinda Smith and sports presenter, Mike Rabbitt all started with the company more than 20 years ago.

NBN News has provided a solid beginning to the careers of many well known television personalities including David Fordham, Darryl Eastlake and Chris Bath.

During the past two decades, NBN News coverage and documentaries have been recognised nationally, taking out countless prestigious accolades including Walkley, Thorn EMI, Logie and Prodi awards. 60 news staff, including those in front of and behind the camera, work to produce more than 20,000 local news stories a year for a bulletin that continues to increase its market share in a highly competitive industry.

When it really matters, more people turn to NBN News.