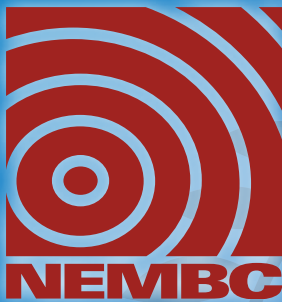


# History of Ethnic Community Broadcasting

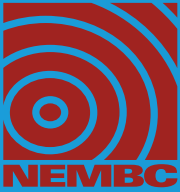


**The National Ethnic and Multicultural  
Broadcasters' Council**

30 years history of the NEMBC

40 years history of Ethnic  
Community Broadcasting

Exposure Draft



The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) is a national peak body that advocates for ethnic community broadcasting: promoting multiculturalism, addressing racism and contributing to media diversity.

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*The Ethnic Broadcaster* is the journal of the National Ethnic & Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC). The views expressed in *The Ethnic Broadcaster* are not necessarily the views of the NEMBC.

*We welcome contributions to The Ethnic Broadcaster, especially from NEMBC Members.*

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We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations as the traditional owners of the land on which *The Ethnic Broadcaster* is edited and printed, and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

# Foreword

Dear Ethnic Broadcasters, radio stations and the community broadcasting sector,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) as well as the 40th anniversary of ethnic community broadcasting in Australia. To celebrate these milestones, the NEMBC wishes to look back over the past 40 years of ethnic community broadcasting through the publication of this special commemorative edition of our national magazine, *The Ethnic Broadcaster*.

With an aim to encapsulate the key social, political, and economic events impacting the sector throughout its 40-year history, this publication is arranged as a chronological timeline with 'pop-ups' throughout which provide detail into specific historic moments. From Australia's pre-colonial multilingualism, to the abolition of the White Australia Policy in 1973, this timeline explores the way in which the social and political landscape of Australia has shaped the evolution of ethnic community broadcasting, and in turn the way that ethnic community broadcasters have reflected and represented a changing nation.

More than ever, it is clear that ethnic community broadcasting plays a vital role within the wider community broadcasting sector, as record numbers of migrants are now calling Australia home. Approximately 230,000 people migrate to Australia each year, and this number is growing. On Australia Day 2015 alone, 16,000 people became Australian citizens. This means that today, more than a quarter of the country's population originates from other countries, from a vast range of ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Fortunately, the continual development of the ethnic community broadcasting sector today aligns with this ever-evolving multicultural landscape. With an average weekly airtime of 2,000 hours per week in over 100 languages, ethnic community radio has a growing presence within Australia's largest media sector.

The NEMBC wishes to not only celebrate this remarkable milestone, but also pay tribute to the dedicated pioneers and volunteers of the sector.

To do this, we invite you to take home a copy of this publication and contact us with any feedback you may want to provide – whether you feel that we could expand on certain key areas, or whether you have further information you would like us to include from your station. Have an interesting story? Share it with us and we can see how we can incorporate it into our final edition of this magazine. Please send us any submissions or suggestions by **31 December 2015**.

With your help, we hope to work together in perfecting this commemorative publication and pay tribute to the dedication of all ethnic broadcasters around Australia in shaping the past, present, and future state of our sector.

**Tangi Steen**  
NEMBC President





# Pre-1901 - 1945

## Australia has always been multilingual and multicultural

Prior to British colonisation, there were over 380 Indigenous tribes and 250 distinct languages in Australia. This map by Dave Foster for Australian Geographic shows where each language originated. Sadly, many Indigenous languages are now under threat, mainly due to introduced Government policies in which Aboriginal people have been discouraged from speaking their ancestral languages. However through books, apps, community radio, music and educational programs, many Aboriginal communities are finding innovative ways to teach younger generations their ancestral languages.



## Australia at Federation

When the Commonwealth Constitution was proclaimed on 1 January 1901, cultural and ethnic homogeneity was crucial to the idea of the new federated Australia. That is, one of the primary reasons behind Federation was so that the nation would unite and identify under just one culture and ethnicity. In the words of John Hirst (2000):

*'The people were of one blood or stock or race; they spoke the same language; they shared a glorious heritage (Britain's) ... the people were also of the one religion...'*



In line with the principles of this newly formed Constitution, Indigenous Australians were denied citizenship or voting rights. Non-white immigrants were also excluded through the Immigration Restriction Act, one of the first major pieces of legislation to be passed by the new Parliament of Australia.

For decades to follow, the nation's evolution from a 'White Australia' to a 'Multicultural Australia' was a slow and intricate process. It involved gradual changes in policies as demands for ethnic equality increased, particularly between the 1950's and 1960's following the mass wave of immigration after World War II.

In fear of a diminishing Australian population after World War II, and with insufficient numbers of migrants relocating from the UK during this post-war period, a controversial decision was made to allow the migration of displaced persons from war-torn Europe. The migration of Asian immigrants was still quite discouraged during this period but the 1960's saw a change in policy in which 'distinguished' non-European immigrants were allowed to apply to migrate to Australia.

Changes in the cultural landscape of the nation continued throughout the 1960's, as the 1967 Referendum approved changes including the removal of Section 127, which originally excluded Aboriginal people from the population counts of the Commonwealth.

Less than a decade later, the introduction of Australia's first ethnic radio broadcast marked even further progress in the nation's transformation: from a nation that was established as an ethnically uniform federation - to a nation now celebrated for its multicultural and linguistic diversity.

18th Century/Pre-colonisation

1901

1902

1905

Over 250 distinct Indigenous languages recorded in Australia

Jan 1: Commonwealth Constitution proclaimed

Australia becomes first country to allow women to vote for Parliament ('other' ethnic groups still denied equal vote)

Wireless & Telegraphy Act passed by Parliament, allowing engineers to erect experimental radio stations





## The Glebe 'Wireless House'

Following the economic downturn of the Great Depression, many working-class people in Australia could no longer afford radio. However, the community's need for radio news at such a critical time was clear. So in 1933, a suggestion was made to Sydney's Glebe Council to establish a 'Wireless House' in the city's local Foley Park where free public broadcasts of news and music could be provided to entertain and inform the local community.

The Glebe Wireless House was commissioned in November 1934 and officially opened in February the following year. From then on, the Wireless House began broadcasting from 10.00 am until 10.15 pm every day, and it soon became clear that the new wireless house was quickly transforming the broadcasting landscape.

From traditionally being a domestic practice, listening to the radio now became a community event - attracting entire families and groups to gather in the park around the Wireless House radio set, to listen to and discuss the daily programs together. This concept revolutionised Australian radio, as it was physically bringing local community members together to listen to broadcasts within a shared public space.

Free public broadcasts at Glebe Wireless House continued up until the early 1950's. The demand for the free radio had diminished over time but the community and local council recognised the need to preserve the historic significance of the Wireless House so on 26 September 2009, a project was launched to restore the building and reconnect it to its original history.



The Wireless House Project saw the building renovated with sound art installations using archival material to become a living museum of radio technology and production.

In a play on the word 'Wireless', the house also became Sydney's first outdoor Internet hotspot. When park visitors log in to the free Wi-Fi, they're automatically directed to the Glebe Wireless House website where they can read the history of the house, and listen to the oral histories shared by the community.

One unique story captured by the project was through an interview with 94-year-old Gladys, who can bend down and touch her toes and talked about her old boyfriends, the timber mill at Blackwattle Bay, Doctor Foley, her great-great grandchildren, and her life and times in Glebe. "I love Glebe," she says. "The only way I'll be going out of Glebe is in a box."

# 2BL 702

## 2BL: The evolution of Australia's first radio station

702 ABC Sydney (official call sign: 2BL) was the first full-time radio station in Australia, having its first official broadcast on 23 November 1923. Soon after this initial broadcast, 2BL's rival station, 2FC, began broadcasting. By 1932, both stations joined forces under the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

*'It was the most anticipated event in town. At 8 o'clock on the 23rd November 1923, people in households across Sydney huddled expectantly around a new piece of equipment, the wireless, and tuned in to hear Miss Deering, Miss Druitt, Mr Thorp, Mr Pick, Mr Saunders and the St Andrews Choir perform 'The Swan' from Saint Saens' famous work The Carnival of the Animals, and create history. It was Australia's first radio broadcast.'* – ABC Archives

By 1946, 2BL became the 'National Programme' which featured more serious news items, whilst 2FC became the ABC Network's 'Interstate Programme' – focusing on lighter entertainment news.

In the 1930s, 2BL had made Australian radio history once again with its innovative use of 'Outside Broadcasts' (OB), allowing presenters to broadcast remotely from the location of a particular event.

A famous 2BL OB was held in 1997 when reporters spent a day broadcasting live from the Royal Hospital for Women, where staff were relocating buildings. Broadcasters spoke with hospital administrators, expectant mothers and fathers, nurses and doctors and listeners who shared their experiences.



One particularly historic moment from this day involved a grandmother who was able to listen to the ultra-sound of her unborn twin grandchildren from her radio at home.

Today, 2BL (702 ABC Sydney) holds the contemporary title of 'Metropolitan Station Of The Year' whilst still maintaining its reputation as a trusted source of local community information.

1923

**Nov 13:** First Australian radio station, 2SB, starts broadcasting in Sydney

1925

B-class radio stations (stations which were reliant on advertising) begin in Australia

1932

**Jul 1:** Australian Broadcasting Commission begins radio broadcasting

1934

Glebe council in Sydney commissions a 'Wireless House'

# 1945 - 1969

## The end of World War II marked a new beginning for 'Multicultural Australia'.

Between 1945 and 1975 nearly four million people migrated to Australia, as high numbers of migrants were displaced and fleeing war-torn Europe. An overwhelming majority of these migrants came from Eastern Europe: Poland, Yugoslavia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, all of whom were fleeing persecution in Soviet Bloc countries. With the assistance of the Commonwealth Government who paid for most of their fare to get to Australia, the migrants stayed in Australia for at least two years and worked in jobs allocated to them by the Government.

The most significant rise in immigration numbers was seen by 1947, when permanent residency was granted to non-European immigrants who migrated for business reasons or who had lived in Australia continuously for over 15 years.

By 1950, the White Australia Policy was challenged once again, as Harold Holt made the historic decision to allow 800 non-European war refugees from the Middle East and Asia (including Japanese war brides) to remain in Australia.

Over the next few decades, the number of new migrants continually increased and new ethnic communities began to emerge. Subsequently, the demand for ethnic broadcasting increased and communities began to criticise the Anglo-centricity of the broadcast media.

Many migrant communities felt Australian radio and television did not cater to audiences from non-English-speaking backgrounds.

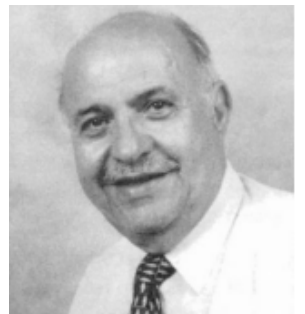


"Australia wants, and will welcome, new healthy citizens who are determined to become good Australians."

- Arthur Caldwell, Minister for Immigration, 1945

## Australia's longest-serving ethnic broadcaster: Arthur Athans (Athanassiou)

Born on the Greek island of Kastellorizo near Turkey on 30 June 1931, Arthur Athans arrived in Fremantle WA aboard the Orion at age 19 with nothing but five shillings and a suitcase.



However he quickly became active in the growing Greek community and by 1956 he had established his first Greek radio program called 'The Voice of Athena' on radio 6PM. To run this program, Athans had to sign a contract with the commercial station agreeing to the script being translated into English and presented to management for approval 24 hours before going to air. Similarly, only instrumental music was allowed to be broadcast as non-English words were prohibited.

In 1969, radio 6PM shut down the Greek program causing great uproar within the community. Thus Athans, along with other members of the Greek community, collected 4,500 signatures protesting the eviction and delivered them to Immigration Minister Bill Snedden.

**Jan 1952:** The Government restricts commercial radio to maximum of 2.5% of non-English language broadcasting

Arthur Athans starts weekly program 'The Voice of Athena' (radio 6PM)

**Jan 1964:** Australian Broadcasting Control Board allows 2CH to carry up to 10% of transmission time in non-English languages

1945

Jan 1946

1947-1953

1956

1961-1964

End of World War II

First FM radio tests conducted by Postmaster General's Department

Australian Government assists 17,000 immigrants to migrate to Australia

Introduction of Television

**Sep 16:** First TV broadcast by TCN 9, showing Olympic Games held in Melbourne.

**May 1961:** VL2UV at University of NSW begins first non-commercial, non-government educational service.



Harold Holt (second from left), with other Southeast Asia Treaty Organization leaders in Manila, the Philippines, 1966.



Deciding it was better to move on from the constraints of commercial radio, Athans decided to continue as a broadcaster under Curtin University's community access station 6NR. For his programs, Athans would stay up late at night to document the BBC's Greek News then convey it to his listeners in Greek the next day. He dedicated himself to the station until 1982 when Perth's first full-time ethnic station, 6EBI, was first established. From here, Athans stayed on as a Greek program convenor and station councillor until he retired in 2002, after 46 years.

By 1965, Athans had opened up the Pan Hellenic Emporium in Northbridge, which was Perth's first ethnic newsagency and record store. His store stocked Greek newspapers, music, magazines and other European items that new migrants could not find elsewhere. Soon, Athans' store became an ethnic landmark for the community.

In 2008, Athans was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for dedicating over 50 years of his life to the Australian-Greek community of Western Australia.

Athans' contribution to the Australian- Greek community:

- **1953 – 1963:** member of the Athena Progressive Association where he assisted newly- arrived Greek migrant youth through cultural and sporting activities.
- **1959 – 2000:** established the first Greek-Australian water polo team in WA, and became an active committee member of the Hellenic Community.
- **1956 - 1969:** became the producer and presenter of "The Voice of Athena" Greek Radio program. His first radio programme, "Campana Parade" was broadcast for many years to come.
- **1968 - 1971:** served as a volunteer with the Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.
- **1992 – 1994:** became Assistant Treasurer for the Greek Australian Professionals and Businessmen's Association
- **1980s - 1990s:** returned to radio as an announcer and convenor on Perth's Hellenic Community radio programmes (HCWA).
- **2000 onward:** Athans continued to dedicate over 50 years of his life to ethnic community broadcasting through continued involvement in Australian-Greek community associations and HCWA radio.

## Towards the end of the 'White Australia Policy'

In 1966, a Government review into Australia's migration policy marked a significant step toward the end of the White Australia Policy.

The 1966 Migration Act, introduced by the Holt Government ensured that all potential migrants faced the same immigration rules or restrictions, and were allowed to apply for Australian citizenship after five years.

All migrants would now be selected based on their skills and abilities to contribute to Australian society, rather than their ethnic background.

*"From now on there will not be in any of our laws or in any of our regulations anything that discriminates against migrants on the grounds of colour or race."*

- Sir Keith Cameron Wilson MP,  
House of Representatives debate, 24 March 1966

This marked just the beginning of the breakdown of the White Australia Policy, as further steps were taken in 1973 by the new Whitlam Government.

By 1973, the White Australia Policy was abandoned completely and directly replaced with a Multiculturalism Policy and, soon enough, Australia became a home to migrants from more than 200 different countries.

1966

Holt Government introduces  
*The 1966 Migration Act*

Jan: University of NSW  
starts low power UHF  
educational TV transmission

1967

Government amends the  
Constitution with respect  
to the Aboriginal people

Apr 17: Australia's  
first legal talkback  
radio program begins  
in Sydney

Jan 1969

Australian Broadcasting Control Board permits Good  
Neighbour Council of Victoria and South Australian  
Bushfire Research Committee to broadcast special  
messages in languages other than English

# 1970 - 1975

## 1970's Australia: An Era of Social Change

The 1970's proved to be an era of great social change in Australia that saw the emergence of community radio and the introduction of the Multicultural Australia Policy.

Activist movements for Indigenous rights, women's liberation, gay and lesbian visibility, and migration policy issues experienced a surge of growth in the climate of radical change following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. More than 3000 orphan infants were flown from Vietnam to Australia as part of 'Operation Babylift' in April 1975, and then 1976 saw the first recorded entrance of adult Vietnamese refugees into Australia when Vietnamese refugees arrived in Darwin Harbour on Tuesday 26 April in a small leaky wooden fishing boat named *Tu Do*, meaning 'Freedom'. Their arrival marked just the beginning of a desperate flow of tens of thousands of Asian refugees into Australia over the next decade. Australia quickly began accepting the largest number of non-European immigrants it had experienced since the 19th C Gold Rush, with 94,000 refugees accepted from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam within a ten year period following 1976.

Demands for social change grew in line with the increasing multicultural landscape, as many activist groups also began lobbying for the Government to free Australia's highly regulated broadcast airwaves to allow a more diverse range of community voices to be heard.

By March 1975, it seemed these demands were finally met when Australia's first community broadcasting station began broadcasting ethnic radio programs on Radio 5UV Adelaide.



Tu Do Fishing Boat, Darwin 1977. Source: National Maritime Museum

## 5UV Adelaide: Pioneers of ethnic radio

On 28 June 1972, 5UV Radio (now Radio Adelaide) was granted the first community radio licence in Australia, becoming Australia's very first community radio station.

The station was set up to broadcast course-related information from Adelaide University but 5UV quickly became recognised as much more than simply a student-run station: it became a medium for social change and an icon for the city's multicultural community. Many student activists and ethnic community groups began using 5UV radio as an avenue for generating awareness for social issues emerging at the time, such as racism and poverty.

In its first year, 5UV became the nation's first radio station to air an Indigenous-produced community radio program. On 3 March 1975, 5UV officially became one of Australia's first ethnic community broadcasting stations through the communal efforts of five ethnic groups: Italian, Dutch, Ukrainian, Polish and Greek. These groups also formed the Ethnic Broadcasters Association that same year, and by the end of 1977, twenty-six community groups had already joined the Association, using 5UV's facilities to broadcast.



**'5UV has always retained a commitment to ethnic broadcasting with 8-12 groups on air at any time.'**

As the demand for multicultural programming increased, the ethnic broadcasters of 5UV needed more airtime. On 6 October 1978, the Ethnic Broadcasters Association was granted the first ethnic community broadcasting license in Australia on the FM band and in 1980 they launched their own station, 5EBI-FM Radio, on 103.1 FM.



Today, 5EBI continues to promote diversity and global perspectives as one of Australia's most popular full-time ethnic radio stations. More on 5EBI Radio can be found on page 16.

**Jan:** 2CH drops all ethnic programming (17 hpw).  
19 of 118 commercial stations continue with some ethnic programs: total 36 hours in 6 languages.

1970

Music Broadcasting Societies set up in Sydney to further promote the broadcasting of 'neglected' music genres

1972

**Jun 28:** VL5UV at Adelaide University starts, off the broadcast band (now Radio Adelaide)

1973

Whitlam Government abandons race as immigration criterion



## Whitlam Government Introduces Policy of Multiculturalism

Although the White Australia Policy had been challenged and revoked prior to the commencement of the Whitlam Government, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was the nation's first leader to officially remove 'race' as a discriminatory immigration criterion, making it easier for non-European migrants to become citizens.

Whitlam also introduced support services to help new immigrants settle in Australia, including multicultural (ethnic) radio stations and telephone translation services. Educational support was also developed for migrants studying at Australian schools, and multilingual welfare support offices were established to support migrants in accessing social services.

The Immigration Minister of the time, Al Grassby, was a strong advocate for Whitlam's multiculturalism policies and contributed to his efforts in preserving cultural diversity as well as social cohesion.

Ultimately, Whitlam and Grassby became Australia's 'Fathers of Multiculturalism' who embraced the notion of ethnic diversity in Australia, and were able to successfully introduce the notion of multiculturalism into the nation's health, welfare and education systems – as well as Australia's media landscape.



Al Grassby launching the telephone interpreter service, 1973.  
Source: *National Archives of Australia*



Minister for Immigration, Al Grassby, announces new immigration selection procedure, 1973. Source: *Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA)*

## 3ZZ Radio Melbourne: 'The station where the people make the programs'

On 4 of October 1974, in Melbourne's ABC boardroom, a meeting was held to establish the city's first independently-run ethnic access radio station. At this time, the station was named 3ZZ and was to be adequately funded under the ABC.



The establishment of the station came as a great achievement for the ethnic community in Melbourne, as a vast number of community members elected their ethnic programming committees – including over 1,500 Maltese and 4,800 Greeks.

By 12 of May 1975, 3ZZ was on air and broadcasting 5 hours a day from 6pm – 11pm, seven days a week, in English and 20 different ethnic languages.

Today, the station is running full-time as 3ZZZ on the 92.3 FM radio band, and is now one of the largest ethnic community stations in Australia.

The 3ZZ team is proud that the station has been able to play a significant part in Melbourne's multicultural history and capture 'the spirit and the pulse of ethnic communities'. 3ZZ provided - and continues to provide - an avenue for ordinary people to express their opinions on air, in their chosen language, and to have a say in the way the station is managed.

More coverage on 3ZZZ can be found on page 13.

May 12: ABC in Melbourne starts up 3ZZ with ethnic and general community access

1974

**Jul 5 & 6:** Following a public broadcasters' conference, a decision is made to form the Public Broadcasting Association of Australia (PBAA)

**Sep 23:** 5UV Adelaide becomes the first community radio station in Australia as Government loosens license restrictions

**Dec 15:** 2MBS starts as Australia's first FM stereo public broadcaster

# 1975 - 1976

## Radio 2EA and 3EA: The birth of RadioEthnic Australia

*'[The Whitlam Government in 1975] wanted to establish a universal health-coverage system for all Australians. In the process, research showed that some hundreds of thousands of Australians in Sydney and Melbourne were linguistically isolated – that the government would not be able to communicate its message to them about the establishment of a universal health coverage system, Medibank. The then Minister for Immigration, Mr Al Grassby, saw a golden opportunity to put the proverbial foot in the door and succeed in getting ethnic radio established in Australia'*

– Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chairman of NSW Community Relations

Commission, in George Zangalis' *From 3ZZ to 3ZZZ* (2001)

In June 1975, Minister Al Grassby issued experimental radio licenses for 2EA (Sydney) and 3EA (Melbourne). 'EA' stood for 'Ethnic Australia' and both stations broadcast for 42 hours per week with 2EA broadcasting in eight different languages, and 3EA broadcasting in seven.

By January 1978, the new Fraser Government turned these experimental stations permanent, creating the foundation for what is now SBS Radio. This change held great historic significance, as it was the first legislative commitment by any federal government recognising Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity.

Ten years later, funds were finally made available for the training and development of the broadcasters, and proper studio facilities were established for EA stations by 1988.

Ultimately, the experimental EA stations in just two states marked the path towards a permanent, unified and ever-growing ethnic broadcasting sector across the nation. In the words of Kerkyasharian (ibid.):

*'Now, as we face the next century, we see that after more than 20 years we have a very well developed ethnic community broadcasting network of stations and broadcasters, their national council, the NEMBC, and an EA structure within the Special Broadcasting Service which cannot be easily dismantled. Together, they form the dual pillars on which we can build effectively.'*



2EA Operating Booth run by SBS, 1992.

Source: SBS Online Archives ([theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com))

## Colour TV Begins

At midnight on 1 March 1975, Australian television finally broadcast in colour. This historic day was known as 'C-Day'.



**Jan:** Victorian Ethnic Communities Council calls for government funded ethnic radio

**Mar 3:** Ethnic community broadcasting begins on 5UV

**Mar 4:** 4ZZZ at Queensland University Union starts broadcasting with experimental licence

**Jun:** Experimental radio licenses issued for 2EA (Sydney) and 3EA (Melbourne) to promote Government initiatives

1975

Mar 1: Colour television begins

30 Apr: End of Vietnam War



## 2MCE-FM: Australia's first regional community radio station

Over the past 40 years of community broadcasting in Australia, the number of community radio stations has grown significantly, with the largest proportion of stations located in regional areas (41%).

The very first regional community broadcasting station in Australia was 2MCE-FM, which has been operated by Charles Sturt University (NSW) in partnership with the Bathurst regional community since 19 March 1976, with full-time broadcasting commencing just two months later.

During these early days, broadcasts were made using a 170 watt transmitter and an oddly-shaped aerial on top of the Mitchell College of Advanced Education (MCAE) library.

However as the station quickly became a major teaching and training resource for university students (particularly those studying Journalism, Theatre, Advertising and Media Production), there was a demand for the stations' facilities to be upgraded. Aside from an upgrade in radio transmitters, a new transmitter and separate translator service was also introduced for broadcasts to the central-west region of Orange by 1987.



Today, 2MCE-FM remains a major training resource for the CSU School of Communication and a trusted source of community information. The station broadcasts ethnic and Indigenous programs, run by students and members of the wider community. Some of the volunteers at 2MCE-FM today have been involved since the station's first broadcasts, highlighting the key role community-access radio still plays in local life.

The current range of programs on 2MCE-FM include specialist music shows, as well as news and current affairs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Broadcasts can be streamed on 92.3MHz in Bathurst and 94.7MHz in Orange.

## Did you know?

Today community broadcasting is Australia's largest independent media sector with 500 independent community owned and operated broadcasting services including radio and television stations and remote Indigenous services (CBF Annual Report, 2014)



Renaldo Portillo from El Salvador, 2XX announcer presenting the Latin American program, Canberra 1996. Source: *National Library of Australia*

## Community radio begins on 2XXfm Canberra

On 2 July 1976, 2XX became one of Australia's first radio stations to be issued a community radio license, allowing them to provide access to ethnic broadcasting. At this time, 2XX was regulated under the Australian National University's Students Association and was known as 'Campus Community Radio 2XX'.

In the beginning, there were only five language groups that broadcast programs: German, Ukrainian, Spanish (Latinos/ Spanish), Hungarian and Croatian. However, the number of language groups quickly grew to 30 and thus each group was eventually given a time slot of half and hour per week to air their programs.



By 1978, the station was incorporated as a community organisation which encouraged community members to engage in the creation and maintenance of alternative and innovative radio services for the wider ACT community beyond the university. The station's name changed to 'Community Radio 2XX'.

In this way, 2XX continued to gain popularity within the ethnic and wider community – providing an avenue for community members to share their diverse opinions:

*'2XX as an access station has been very good for those of us from countries with difficult political situations. It has provided support and assistance for our campaigns to freely express our democratic views'* 2XX station representative in NEMBC 25 anniversary edition of *The Ethnic Broadcaster*, Winter 2010, p 17.

1976

Mar 19: 2MCE starts in Bathurst as first regional community station

Jul 2: 2XX at ANU in Canberra launched

# 1976

## 3CR: Melbourne's voice for social activism

### The beginning:

Established shortly after Melbourne's community radio pioneers, 3ZZ, 3CR Melbourne quickly became widely renowned as Melbourne's voice of dissent and an avenue for the community to share their views. Following the approval of the station's broadcasting licence on 10 October 1975 by then Minister for the Media, Dr Moss Cass, 3CR began test broadcasts on 1 May 1976. Within a couple of months, the station began in full operation by 3 July 1976.

As well as making media, the station commented on the media landscape. From the beginning, 3CR advocated greater independence for the ABC and for more licences for other public broadcasters. In November 1976, 3CR broadcast special coverage of a 'Defend the ABC' public meeting and the station worked hard in forming an official 'Broadcasting Defence Committee', in which they produced and distributed leaflets exposing the Fraser Government's attacks against the ABC.

In 1977, when the ABC was forced to close down radio 3ZZ, the community worked alongside 3CR to ensure ethnic programs continued to run on 3CR.



### Controversies:

In 1978, much controversy was sparked when 3CR was accused by The Bulletin as being 'the voice of terrorism'. But the station did not surrender to demands to stop coverage of the Palestinian struggle, instead creating a 'Fight Back' campaign in which 1,000 listeners helped distribute nearly 500,000 leaflets throughout Melbourne in support of 3CR's views.

By the mid 1990's, it seemed the station's role in social activism continued to be viewed as rebellious and threatening as the station was infiltrated by undercover members of the Victorian police, who attempted to gather any information that could expose involvement in terrorist activity.

### A voice for minorities:

By 1984, 3CR had relocated and permanently opened at a new studio at 21-23 Smith Street, Fitzroy, where they began broadcasting a range of events throughout the year including coverage of both state and federal elections, a special 24-hour broadcast for International Women's Day, comprehensive federal budget coverage, and two Youth Radio Festivals including a live concert series from RMIT University.

In 1986, 3CR became the first and only radio station in Australia to appoint a paid Women's Officer, and it began hosting several programs promoting women's voices in both English and other ethnic community languages. By 1993, 3CR produced the first national, multicultural women's program 'Accent of Women', which still runs today.

Within the same year, the station devoted its resources to a number of other training projects including the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project (AERTP), South East Indigenous Media Association (SEIMA) radio training project (a two-week training project for urban and regional Indigenous broadcasters), and a month-long training project was run for nine East Timorese community radio workers who visited 3CR and stayed with Melbourne families associated with 3CR for the training period. 3CR also began running Youth Training projects, including their 'Outloud not Outcast' project in 2003 which trained young queers, and their 2005 'Transit Lounge' project which trained young homeless people.

The station has also been celebrated for its unique Outside Broadcasts from the heart of different communities. IN 2002, the station's 'Indigenous Prison Project' broadcast live from Port Phillip Prison during National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week. Here, 3CR conducted music workshops with Indigenous men and broadcast the prisoners sharing personal stories, poems and songs.

In 2013, 3CR became involved in the 'Commit to Community Radio' campaign which helped successfully convince the Federal Government to extend funding for community radio digital broadcasting until 2016.

1976





3CR's first transmitter, "Bertha", started the station off in Armadale. Source: 3CR Archives



3CR's first studios at 1112 High Street Armadale in Melbourne. Source: 3CR Archives



Illustration pays tribute to the work of 3CR's Radical Women (RW) and Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) by Brunswick community artist, Peter Hannaford. Source: 3CR Archives

**3CR Today:**

There are now over 130 programs presented by over 400 volunteers at 3CR, with over 30 shows that publish podcasts on the station website. The station continues to feature political and environmental talk-based programs, as well as music and language-based programs. Despite the controversies and challenges faced along the way, 3CR has continued to work to ensure a diverse range of voices from the Melbourne community are heard: including women, ethnic communities, youth, Indigenous groups, hip hop artists, the queer community, as well as Latin American and Vietnamese freelancers.

**1976**

**Oct 16:** 6NR at Curtin University in Perth begins broadcasting

**Nov 17:** 3RRR goes to air in Melbourne, originally as 3RMT

# 1977 - 1978

## HobartFM (7THE-FM)

Compilation of information and writing by Brian Lewis (President) and Sonia Parra (Spanish Program)

In April 1977, HobartFM (7THE-FM) was granted one of the first 10 community radio licenses in Australia, making it the oldest FM station in Tasmania. At this time, the station was operated by HobartFM Incorporated and the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education at Mt Nelson. Under the call sign '7CAE-FM', the station broadcast a wide range of specialist and educational programs.



By January 2008, the station started transmitting from Mt Faulkner, just north of Hobart, and changed its main frequency to 96.1MHz. This allowed the station to send its signal back to the western shore to reach areas that Mt Wellington once blocked out.

Today the station has a Committee of Management comprising 11 people, all of whom are elected by members at the station's Annual General Meeting. Programs cater for listeners whose music tastes are not covered by commercial radio and the ABC. The station is also the multicultural voice in Hobart, broadcasting in 15 languages other than English. These programs are broadcast from 8.00am to 6.00pm on Saturday, 8.00am to 5.00pm Sundays and between 9.00pm and midnight on Friday.

For more information on HobartFM and their programs, feel free to visit: [www.hobartfm.org.au](http://www.hobartfm.org.au)

### Hobart's Multicultural Voice

The Multicultural Broadcaster Inc (Hobart) was an organisation formally founded in 1982, by members of the ethnic community in Hobart. Members included Graziano Ceron (Italian broadcaster), Mahendra Pathik (Hindi broadcaster) and Bella Crowder (Pilipino broadcaster), all of whom still currently broadcast at the station. Other founding members came from German, Greek, Polish and French communities who ran programs, and all these members offered money from their own pockets in order to start the organisation.

These volunteers from the ethnic community were all self-taught, and their passion for radio continues as many are still running their programs after 30 years. Take the case of Mahendra Pathik: He started the Hindi radio program at 7THE FM in 1979 with his wife, who was missing being surrounded by her native language. Today, Mahendra is still conducting his program every week at the station, but without the company of his wife, who sadly passed away in 1989. Mahendra says: 'The ethnic and multicultural programs are very important...I have met people who were listening to the Hindi program on the station before they migrated to Tasmania, and for them it [became] a reference point when they arrived here!'

Both Mahendra and Graziano have continued to devote themselves to ethnic broadcasting over the years, and both took part in the establishment of the NEMBC in 1984.

Today the Multicultural Broadcaster in Hobart has 15 programs in 12 languages other than English – Polish, Greek, Serbian, Macedonian, Hindi, Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, German, Spanish and Italian – which air every weekend.

### Our current Executive Board:

President: Mahendra Pathik, Hindi program

Vice-president: Steve Wang, Cantonese/Mandarin program

Secretary: Sonia Parra, Spanish program

Treasurer: Bogdan Pitera, Polish program



BELOW: The crowd outside the 3ZZ studio today. Picture: TONY VERRY.

Victor Borg, George Zangalis, Ian Elliott address protestors outside 3ZZ studios at Hardware Street, Melbourne, 16/07/1977. Source: Zangalis (2001)

Apr 13: Hobart FM goes to air, originally as 7THE

Jun 20: Government directs ABC to shut down 3ZZ



## ABC forced to shut down 3ZZ

On 30 June 1977, the ABC Commission decided to surrender to the Fraser Government's instruction to shut down Radio 3ZZ. The command was made following political controversies sparked by 3ZZ programming, and with the presumption that ethnic voices would be adequately represented with the introduction of the new SBS.

Following the station's closure, 3ZZ announcer Richard Zoeller stated:

*'On May 12 1975, I opened our first transmission with a message that ended with these words: We want to hear from you - I hope you will want to hear from us! I want you all to know that that still holds. We want to hear from you. I hope you'll continue to hear from us.'*

With 20 ethnic language programs broadcasting at 3ZZ, many broadcasters and a majority of the language programs were obliged to move to other studios including Melbourne's Radio 3EA, the SBS, or continue under the ABC.



Unsurprisingly, this closure sparked much anger within the community, with several thousands of people coming to protest at a pre-arranged 3ZZ rally in Melbourne's City Square on 17 July 1977. A public campaign began which called upon the Government to support ethnic broadcasting development and articulated the need for ethnic media to be responsive to ethnic communities and lie outside the commercial arena.

Under the leadership of Walter Lippmann, Tony Bonnicci, George Zangalis and Victor Borg, the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria was established for this very purpose. The council aimed to protect the rights of migrant workers and ethnic communities, and worked specifically to re-establish an ethnic community radio station in Melbourne that was independently run and owned by a community association.

On 18 June 1989, this dream finally came true as Melbourne's new ethnic radio station, 3ZZZ, officially went to air.

For more on the station's fascinating story, please read George Zangalis' 2001 book, *From 3ZZ to 3ZZZ*, which gives a detailed history of 3ZZZ (see References for publication information).



## Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) begins

Before the SBS was established, ethnic broadcasting in Australia was introduced in 1975 simply as an experimental project under the Whitlam Government. These experimental broadcasts were produced by 2EA (Sydney) and 3EA (Melbourne) as way for the Government to explain the new Medibank Healthcare System to migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB). It was through these broadcasts that the continued demand for ethnic broadcasting in Australia was first recognised, and thus by January 1978, the SBS was officially born under the new Fraser Government.

Under the guidance of the then SBS Chairman, Grisha Sklovsky, SBS Radio became a permanent ethnic broadcasting station which provided 42 hours of programs in eight languages per week. The SBS took control over both 2EA and 3EA, and by 2005, was broadcasting full-time (24 hours a day, seven days a week) in 68 different languages, to approximately 2.5 million Australian listeners each weekday. Every hour (between 6am to 1am), a different language program was broadcast, with the number of hours dedicated to each language dependent on the size of the ethnic community, the broadcasters' proficiency in English, and the proportion of newly arrived migrants (Leuner 2006).

In this way, it's clear to see how the hard work of the 2EA and 3EA ethnic stations really became the foundation for the emergence of SBS and also the development of ethnic community radio on a permanent and national scale. In the words of dedicated Yugoslav Broadcaster, Ivana Bacic-Serdarevic:

*'I [had] started as a volunteer working at 2EA for the Yugoslav group... It's been 40 years since then and I'm still here. It's not an experiment anymore.'*

Today there are full-time ethnic community broadcasting stations in six states and territories, over 65 community radio stations that regularly broadcast ethnic and multicultural programs, and SBS broadcasts have increased to 650 hours of programming in 68 languages each week.



Yugoslav Broadcaster, Ivana Bacic-Serdarevic (left), with a co-worker at 2EA studios, 1975

Jan: Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) set up.

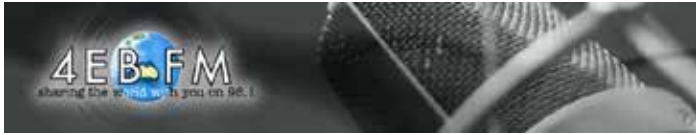
1978

May 1: 2CT in Campbelltown goes to air (its license was revoked June 1981)

Jul 23: Minister Staley announces setting up of RPH stations, initially just off the AM band

1979

## 4EB FM 98.1: Australia's First Full-Time Ethnic Community Radio



The 4EB mission: 'To provide the communities of Brisbane with a comprehensive ethnic broadcasting service of a high standard, whilst at all times promoting the principles of neutrality, independence, democracy, diversity & participation at all levels of multicultural radio.'

Since its very first broadcast on 1 December 1979, 4EB FM has played a key role in Australia's 40 years of ethnic broadcasting history. Beginning broadcasts on the AM Band from the top storey of a Greek bakery in Brisbane's West End, 4EB started with approximately 20 language groups involved and 800 station members. The team started with providing different language programs, as well as programs centred on religion, women, youth, Indigenous language, music and arts. Soon enough, 4EB quickly became the only multilingual radio station that broadcast 24/7 in over 50 different languages, including a variety of programs in English. By 1988, 4EB FM had grown and established a permanent presence within the ethnic broadcasting sector when the team relocated to premises at 140 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, in which they had their very own soundproof digital recording studio.

Over the ensuing years, training became a priority for the station with hundreds of broadcasters receiving both accredited and unaccredited training. Each year, 4EB invites more than 100 new trainee broadcasters on board – all of whom come from a diverse range of backgrounds and levels of broadcasting experience. The station also began providing scholarships to journalism or media studies students from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), which saw many students gain the experience and hard skills needed to continue within the media industry both domestically and abroad.

4EB's listenership continued to grow and by December 2001, more than 300,000 people were tuning into the station's broadcasts. Although living in Brisbane and its surrounding regions, these listeners were born overseas with diverse cultural backgrounds and found that 4EB's programs catered for their needs and interests. The station even published its own book in 2002 entitled *Message from the Past, Voices to the Future*, which detailed 100 years of migration history to Queensland and the impact that migration and Radio 4EB have had on the state.

Through such a community focus, it is no wonder that 4EB's foundation has strengthened over the years through its growing volunteer base. One of the station's most dedicated broadcasters, Wolfgang Kreuzer, has been a German program broadcaster at 4EB prior to the first broadcast in 1979, and is still broadcasting today. Another broadcaster, Emmy Stephan, has been a volunteer at 4EB for over 27 years, helping run the Dutch program. She became renowned within the community for her 'Hello! Beautiful Brisbane' call sign. The many volunteers at 4EB such as Wolfgang and Emmy have dedicated much of their lives to Brisbane's multicultural community through the station.

Today, 4EB has over 600 volunteers, over 4500 members, and facilitates over 50 language groups from around the world. Initially starting as the only source of information for new arrivals to Brisbane, 4EB today has engrained its presence within the city's multicultural community and continues to be a primary source of local community information and settlement advice.



Hans Streim (left) and Wolfgang Kreuzer (right) during 4EB's Test broadcasts, 1976. Source: 4EB German group archives

Dec 1: 4EB goes to air in Brisbane as the first full-time community ethnic broadcasting station





### 4EB's language programs today:

- African
- Albanian
- Arabic
- Bangladeshi
- Bosnian
- Chinese
- Cook Islands
- Croatian
- Czech
- Dutch
- Fijian
- Filipino
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Indian
- Irish
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin-American
- Lithuanian
- Macedonian
- Maltese
- Maori
- Multicultural (Mixed)
- Nepalese
- Niue
- Pakistani
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Russian
- Samoan
- Scottish
- Serbian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Sri Lankan
- Tamil
- Telugu (from Southern India)
- Thai
- Tokelauan
- Tongan
- Turkish
- Ukrainian
- Vietnamese



The 4EB team during one of their Outside Broadcasts, Queens Street Mall, Brisbane. Source: 4EB German group archives

### 1979: Funding Update!

As the 1970s saw rapid changes in the multicultural landscape of Australia and growth within the ethnic broadcasting sector, the Federal Government recognised a clear need for further funding for the sector.

Thus in 1979, the Government extended funding for ethnic community broadcasting by increasing funds to the SBS. The SBS was granted a \$2.65 million budget and was required to distribute funds to other ethnic broadcasters in community stations. In 1981, the Government increased this budget to \$5 million.

By 1982, there were 19 ethnic community stations allocated \$650,000 of the funds. Although this was a significant amount for the ethnic community stations, it did not compare to the \$5 million budget allocated to the two SBS stations, 2EA and 3EA.

Over time, funding has continued to be a recurring challenge for the ethnic community broadcasting sector, with much of the sector's expansion relying on the Federal Budget. Hopefully, with the continued support of the Government, the dedication of ethnic broadcasters and national peak bodies such as the NEMBC, sufficient funding will allow the sector to continue its central role within our multicultural communities.

Government extends funding to community ethnic broadcasting with subsidy of \$50 per broadcast hour, funded through the SBS

1979

Mar 1: Hope FM begins in Sydney (originally as 2CBA Christian Broadcasting Association)

# 1980

## The birth of 5EBI Adelaide

In 1975, the ethnic groups who originally came together to form Radio 5UV (Italian, Dutch, Polish, Ukrainian and Greek) recognised the need for full-time ethnic broadcasting in Adelaide. Thus they came together once again to establish an 'Ethnic Broadcasters' organisation.



By 6 October 1978, Ethnic Broadcasters was granted the first ethnic public broadcasting license in Australia on the FM Band, and thus 5EBI was officially established by 6 January 1980. Transmitting on 102.3MHz, the station made its debut on 2 February with approximately 200,000 listeners tuning in. At this time, 5EBI had 33 radio committees which were elected by the various ethnic and language groups in South Australia.

Opened by the then Premier of South Australia, Mr. David Tonkin, 5EBI's new \$110,000 premises was established on 3 October 1981 at 10 Byron Place in Adelaide, which remains its business location today. This event marked a significant day in Adelaide's multicultural history, with the local newspaper describing the day's atmosphere as 'truly cosmopolitan...with people wearing the national dress of their countries of origin mingling with the multinational crowd...'

*'[Ethnic radio is] a pilgrimage through history and time, re-discovering and retrieving distant memories...these are memories volunteers often share through radio with the community at large'*  
– Paul Kokke, 5EBI Life Member



The Premier of SA, Mike Rann, in the 5EBI studio together with young members of the Polish Radio Group and Stefan Lesnicki (OAM and 5EBI Life Member)



5EBI's premises at 10 Byron Place, Adelaide

## Forming the NEMBC

Despite the growing demand and success of ethnic broadcasting throughout the ensuing years, by 1984 it seemed the Public Broadcasting Association of Australia still did little to promote the sector. Thus, 4EB in Brisbane and 5EBI decided to join forces in establishing the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasting Council (NEMBC), not only to help promote the sector but also to unite ethnic broadcasters under one national organisation. The then Vice Chairman of 5EBI, Luigi Penna, became one of NEMBC's first Vice Presidents, and Hans Degenhart, the 5EBI Station Manager, became the Council's Executive Member and Treasurer for many years.

## The 5EBI Vision continues

5EBI has unquestionably played a key role in the growth and recognition of ethnic broadcasting in Australia, and it is the station's strong vision and community focus that has allowed this to happen. In the words of 5EBI's Life Member, Paul Kokke: *'5EBI is the bridge between yesterday and tomorrow'. In other words, ethnic radio programs continue to help and support migrants in their transition from their old country to their new one, and it is through ethnic broadcasting that these migrant groups can preserve their culture, identity and language in Australia. Today, this vision remains stronger than ever for 5EBI, as the station aims to ensure the continuity of their language programs as a way to maintain the link between ethnic groups in Adelaide and their homelands.*

Jan 3: 5EBI starts broadcasting in Adelaide



## The Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA): sharing Indigenous culture

The Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) is an organisation that was originally established as a public radio station in 1980 by Freda Glynn, Phillip Batty and John Macumba, aiming to share Aboriginal music and culture with the rest of Australia. Based in Alice Springs, the station quickly grew in popularity so much so that its content was eventually extended into music (country-western and Aboriginal rock), call-ins and discussion, as well as news and current affairs. Broadcasts were made in six different languages, as well as English, and operated for approximately fifteen hours per day. Expansions also eventually saw the station move into AM and shortwave broadcasts with educational programs, live recordings of Aboriginal bands, and commercials for local Aboriginal products and services.



CAAMA Radio Trainee Broadcasters Kaitlyn Armstrong and Lorena Walker. Source: Justin Fenwick, NT News.

In 1986, CAAMA obtained its Regional Commercial Television Services license after concern was raised that the introduction of Australia's first satellite (AUSATSAT) would bring commercial television to regional areas of Australia and thus threaten the preservation of Aboriginal languages and culture in the region. Fortunately, by 1988, CAAMA's private commercial television station, Imparja, began broadcasting to at least 100,000 viewers in Central Australia. CAAMA's work has increased presence and recognition of Aboriginal identities within the Australian media landscape. One example of this is the production *Nganampa-Anwernekenbe* [Ours], which is the first television program to be produced in Australia entirely in an Indigenous language (with English subtitles), reflecting indigenous culture through storytelling and unique performing and visual arts content. Today, CAAMA Productions has become the largest Indigenous production house in Australia, operating alongside a number of different Aboriginal/Indigenous media organisations. These organisations include Gadigal Information Service, Goolarri Media Enterprise/ Broome Aboriginal Media Association, Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association, Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA), National Indigenous Media Association (NIMAA), and the National Indigenous Times.



Broadcasters from CAAMA embracing the latest technology, the RCS Zetta system, in 2014. Source: CAAMA Website.



Students from Yirara College in the CAAMA Studios learning about radio, Alice Springs 2013. Source: CAAMA Website

**Apr:** Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) formed and begins production of programs for broadcast on 8CCC

**Oct 24:** SBS Television starts in Sydney and Melbourne on channels 0 and 28

# 1981 - 1982

## The evolution of Australia's Indigenous Media Landscape

In 1981, a national peak body was established to represent Australia's Indigenous media organisations. This organisation was named the National Aboriginal and Islander Broadcasting Association (NAIBA), which worked as an advocacy, referral and information agency that represented a vast number of Indigenous media agencies including: community broadcasting and radio, television, film and video, print media, multimedia and remote area communications. In 1992, the organisation was renamed the National Indigenous Media Association (NIMA).

Over the years, the industry continued to grow within the Australian media landscape, and the organisation was eventually reborn as the Australian Indigenous Communications Association (AICA) in 2003. Today, AICA works as the national peak body for the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander broadcasting and media sector, representing individual media practitioners as well as over 130 community-controlled Indigenous media outlets within remote, regional and urban Australia.

The organisation aims to unite Indigenous community broadcasters and recognise the importance of Indigenous media services in keeping community members informed, entertained, and culturally connected. Working alongside its members, AICA formulates and advocates policy covering all aspects of the Indigenous broadcasting and media sector.

## 1981: Highest recorded number of Vietnamese migrants resettle into Australia

The first phase of Vietnamese migration to Australia began more than four decades ago when there were only approximately 700 Vietnamese-born migrants accepted into the country, most of whom were orphans or tertiary students (under the 1958 Colombo Plan) who returned to Vietnam after their studies.

The second and largest wave of Vietnamese migration came following the Whitlam Government's removal of racially discriminative immigration criteria in 1975. This wave saw tens of thousands of migrants accepted to resettle in Australia including an influx of students, over 500 orphans, and record high numbers of refugees fleeing the conflict of their homeland. It was during this period that the highest recorded number of migrants was officially reached in 1981, when 49,616 Vietnamese refugees resettled permanently into the country. Most Vietnamese arrivals came through official resettlement programs (95%) and another 5% arrived by boat.

Over the next decade, Australia began accepting an average of 8,000 Vietnamese refugees each year. The Vietnamese Government also loosened emigration restrictions in 1990, allowing more Vietnamese people to migrate to Australia. This rapid increase in numbers eventually ceased by the mid 1990's when the Government implemented the Comprehensive Plan of Action and the Vietnamese Family Migration Program.

Today, the Census indicates that more than 185,000 people in Australia were born in Vietnam, with more than 219,000 still speaking Vietnamese at home. This year not only marks the 40th year of ethnic community broadcasting in Australia, but also the 40th anniversary of Vietnamese resettlement in Australia. With tens of thousands of homeless Vietnamese seeking refuge from their homeland during the Vietnam War period, the abolition of the White Australia policy and eventual acceptance of Vietnamese migrants over the decades to follow became quintessential to the evolving landscape of Multicultural Australia.

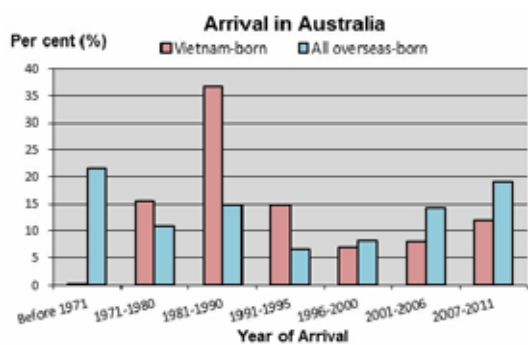
National Aboriginal and Islander Broadcasting Association (NAIBA) set up

Jun 5: Territory FM starts broadcasting in Darwin, originally as 8TOP

1981

43,400 Vietnamese migrants arrive in Australia





Percentage of Vietnamese migrants arriving in Australia prior to 1970s – 2011. Source: ABS.



Refugees from Vietnam welcomed at Sydney airport, 1977. Source: *The Australian*

## Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH) begins



Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH) was a movement that began in the late 1970's, in which radio reading services in the United States became an inspiration for the Australian broadcasting community.

The first stations in Australia to dedicate programs to the RPH community were 3ZZ and 3CR in Melbourne. 'A Blind Affair' was one of the earliest programs run for vision impaired people. It was a half-hour weekly magazine-style program with two main aims: to provide information for people with vision impairments, and to educate the broader public about their lives.

In 1978, RPH services were officially set up in Australia by the then Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, Tony Staley. On 23 July 1978, he announced:

*'[The Service will] present programs, which are not provided in depth by existing stations. This would include readings of feature articles, and book serialisation, as well as the transmission of information of special relevance to print handicapped people.'*

Government funding was first provided in the 1981-82 Federal Budget, as an initiative for the International Year for Disabled Persons. RPH services were made available in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, with the first station 3RPH (Melbourne) beginning in 1983 with broadcasts on 1179AM. By 1984, RPH services were also made available in Canberra and Brisbane.



Presenter reads out *The Age* newspaper at Melbourne's RPH radio station, 1984

A decade later, the first RPH regional station began transmission in late 1997 in Mildura, followed by the introduction of other regional stations in Albury/Wodonga, Bendigo, Geelong, Shepparton, Warragul and Warrnambool.

Over the following years, support for RPH services was provided directly through the Australian Council for Radio for the Print Handicapped (ACRPH, now RPH Australia), however after 1990, RPH funding was processed via the Public Broadcasting Foundation (now the CBF – Community Broadcasting Foundation) while RPH Australia remained the peak body for the vision-impaired community broadcasting sector.

By 2004, Vision Australia was formed as the nation's first truly national blindness agency, and 3RPH radio, alongside its 7 regional services, subsequently became known as Vision Australia Radio.



# 1983 - 1984

## Government increases support for Colombo Plan

Following the end of World War II, the Colombo Plan was officially started in 1951 as a way for developed countries under the Commonwealth to assist less developed ones. The Australian Government initially introduced the plan also as a means to better the nation's bilateral relationship with Asian countries, particularly following the negative perceptions caused by the White Australia Policy.

Under this plan, six countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Britain, Japan and the United States) agreed to provide aid to 20 developing countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. Aid came in the form of grants, loans, food, and study scholarship programs.

In 1983, Australia made a historic contribution to the Colombo Plan when the Government provided \$59 million in aid. With this generous amount of funding, students from developing countries were sponsored to come to Australia to study and then returned to their countries of origin with the new skills and knowledge required to help their communities back home. By 1986, the Australian Government was funding 3500 foreign students and trainees to study and live in Australia.

The Australian Government's active contributions to the Colombo plan over the years have demonstrated the gradual acceptance and recognition to of the value of Australia's multicultural society formed through migration. It has enabled thousands of foreign students to experience life in Australia, gain world-class skills and knowledge, and has ultimately contributed to the breaking down of cultural barriers between Australia and its Asian neighbours.

With the Government's continued support for students to migrate to Australia, alongside its support for the ethnic community broadcasting sector, there is hope that the spread of ethnic culture and language in Australia will continue to break down racial misconceptions and deepen cross-cultural understanding.



Vietnamese students at the University of Queensland, 1967. Source: University of Queensland Archive



A Gift from the Australian People under the Colombo Plan, Lionel Lindsay, 1954. Source: National Library of Australia



Colombo Plan Foreign Affairs Conference attended by Founding Members: Percy Spender (Australia), Ernest Bevin (Britain), Lester Pearson (Canada), Jawaharlal Nehru (India), Fredrick Doidge (New Zealand), Ghulam Mohammed (Pakistan), D.S. Senanayake (Ceylon) and J.R. Jayewardene (Sri Lanka), Colombo 1951. Source: Colombo Plan Archives



Indonesian students Koesmarihati Koesnowarso and Trismiati Harsono (Tasmania's first female Engineering graduates) at Orientation Week, University of Tasmania 1962. Source: University of Tasmania Archives

Radio Skidrow begins as first Indigenous and migrant broadcaster

1983

Government provides \$59million in aid to support Colombo Plan





The 2000th Colombo Plan student to train in Australia, Ummi Kelsom (from Malaysia) is welcomed by Minister for External Affairs, Mr Casey and his wife, Melbourne 1957. Source: *National Archives of Australia*



Radio Redfern Studios, Cope Street NSW 1980s. Source: *Radio SkidRow Archives*

## Radio SkidRow 88.9FM: the voice of Sydney's marginalised community

Radio SkidRow (call sign: 2RSR) first went to air in 1983, when its first broadcasters included members of the Indigenous community, the Communist Party, migrant workers' committees, squatters, prison activists and youth. At this time, the station allocated 20 hours of airtime to the local Koori community. These programs eventually lead to a partnership between the station's Indigenous and non-Indigenous broadcasters, and an Aboriginal-owned studio was soon built in Redfern (Radio Redfern) with a landline connecting it to the main studio at Sydney University (Radio SkidRow). Radio Redfern later evolved into Koori Radio, in which the broadcasters eventually gained their own licence and have broadcast as Koori Radio ever since.



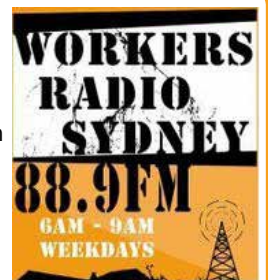
From the start, it was clear that the Radio Skid Row and Radio Redfern partnership played a significant role in sharing the diverse voices of the marginalised community. In the words of one of Radio Redfern's founding members, Tiga Bayles:

*'The Radio Skid Row-Radio Redfern experience gave me the passion and commitment to continue working in the development of Indigenous media in Australia...I realised the power of radio in breaking down barriers and developing understanding in the community.'*

Ethnic broadcasting continued to be the focus of Radio SkidRow, with the majority of broadcasters made up of Indigenous, Pacific-Islander, and African migrants who worked at the local railway workshops. These broadcasters ran their programs after business hours, making their way to the station as soon as they had finished their shifts.

Despite the success of these programs, it was not always easy for the Indigenous and migrant groups to access their airtime. When the station first began broadcasts in 1983, the management board took much convincing as the very thought of allowing the marginalised groups to be represented within the board made them uneasy. It also meant potential power was being handed to any activists, squatters, artists and ex-prisoners involved.

Eventually, after one year on air, this tension between the broadcasters and the original management reached boiling point. The management shut down the station and broadcasters were locked out of the premises. Public protests started the very next day on the street outside the station but the station remained off the air for a few weeks. Five months later, after countless negotiations and campaigning, the broadcasters were finally able to overthrow its original management and take over the running of the station.



Today, Radio Skidrow has developed into one of the most significant ethnic community broadcasting stations in Australia. Preserving its radical approach, the station shares the voice of youth, hip hop artists, refugees as well as members of new and emerging communities .

Radio Skidrow can be heard on 88.9FM in Sydney and for more information on their programs or projects, you can visit them online at [www.radioskidrow.org](http://www.radioskidrow.org).



Radio Redfern Studios, Cope Street, NSW 1989. Source: *City of Sydney Archives*

Mar: MBC (Northern Territory) Radio committee established

1984

Feb 26: First meeting of Board of the Public Broadcasting Foundation.

# 1985: The birth of the NEMBC

## Before it all began

Prior to the formation of the NEMBC, the need for community broadcasters and their stations to unite led to the establishment in 1975 of the Public Broadcasting Association of Australia (now CBAA – Community Broadcasting Association of Australia). The then Communications Minister, Moss Cass, also established an advisory committee to make recommendations to the Government regarding the development of public broadcasting in Australia. One key recommendation made at this time was that the Australian Government should provide financial support for the public broadcasting sector, and that the primary funding body would be a Public Broadcasting Funding Committee (PBFC), which would obtain funds for distribution to public broadcasters around Australia.

Although this demonstrated growing recognition and support for the public broadcasting sector, many ethnic broadcasters felt their needs were still not adequately accommodated or understood, due to the Anglo-Australian domination of the public broadcasting sector.

Thus in 1982, the federal government allocated \$90,000 yearly for the next 3 years for the sole purpose of funding the development of the ethnic community broadcasting sector. And by 1983, the first national conference of all ethnic broadcasters was held in Melbourne, bringing together those under the CBAA and the founding members of the nascent NEMBC. It was at this conference that it was decided the time had come for all ethnic broadcasters to unite under one national organisation: the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council.

## The birth of the NEMBC

The NEMBC was officially established in 1985. It began its early days through the joint efforts of team members from 5EBI Adelaide and 4EB Brisbane with the Vice-Chairman of 5EBI, Luigi Penna, becoming one of the first Vice-Presidents, and Hans Degenhart, the 5EBI Station Manager, becoming the Executive Member and Treasurer for many years. Tony Manicaros, 4EB's President at this time, became the NEMBC's first President until 1988.

Over time, as the number of full-time ethnic broadcasting stations grew, so too did the number of NEMBC members. Eventually, NEMBC's first primary affiliates came from: 6MTC (later 6EBA), 2XX (Canberra), 2NUR (Newcastle), Top 8FM (Darwin) and 7THE (Hobart). By the following year, 3ZZZ Melbourne also joined, and MCRA Sydney (later 2000FM) joined in 1998. The final full-time station to join was 1CMS in Canberra, who joined the NEMBC in 2001.

## The NEMBC vision: a new era in the making

The NEMBC's core vision has remained the same since its initial inception: to defend the independent rights of ethnic broadcasters and to demonstrate their ability to manage their own affairs in order to be recognised as equals and partners in the wider community broadcasting sector. Within just a few years of its inception, the NEMBC achieved this goal by consistently defending the rights of ethnic broadcasters and their communities, voicing their demands for better Government funding and support, developing policies and campaigns, and keeping members informed of any sector challenges or developments. In this way, the birth of the NEMBC and its core foundations heralded a new era for ethnic and general community broadcasting in Australia.

In defending these rights and advocating for multiculturalism, the NEMBC's establishment also demonstrated that although 'mainstreaming' policies and attitudes still exist, the struggle for the principles of independence, of diversity, and of multiculturalism will continue. It also underpinned the undeniable fact that migration is continuing to evolve Australia's multicultural landscape, causing social, cultural and ethnic diversity to impact the community broadcasting sector as a whole.

Overall, the NEMBC's role in advocating for ethnic community broadcasting as a distinct sector with its own values and goals, directed by migrant communities themselves, embodies the principle of self-determination that also drives Indigenous and print-handicapped community broadcasting.

The organisation has become much more than simply a united front for ethnic broadcasters around the country: it has marked a new era in Australian multiculturalism and multilingualism.

## NEMBC's growth: Members and Social Impact

Over the past 30 years, the NEMBC's presence within the Australian community broadcasting sector has evolved and adapted, taking full advantage of technological and social changes of the times. Using numerous media platforms including social media, print, and websites, the Council continues to generate awareness of the ethnic broadcasting sector and its vital role.

The impact of the NEMBC also comes down to its membership base that has also grown from just two member stations (5EBI and 4EB), to nearly forty community broadcasting stations today. It's safe to say that the dedication of the NEMBC and its members has truly shaped the past 40 years of Australia's ethnic community broadcasting history!

National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council (NEMBC) formed

1985

Feb 26: First meeting of Board of the Public Broadcasting Foundation.



## Tony Manicaros: the role of the NEMBC's first President

Tony Manicaros became NEMBC's very first President in 1985, and held his role until 1988. As he was also the Treasurer for the CBF, Tony became an important lobbyist for the NEMBC - particularly within federal communications policy. He quickly became known within the sector as a 'strong and influential advocate of unity and equality among all community broadcasters'.



Tony's work continued to play a vital role within the early development years of the NEMBC, as he was also involved in the September 1986 Public Ethnic Broadcasters Conference presented by the NEMBC and PBAA Ethnic and Multicultural Steering Committee. He said of the conference: 'Of course the most important topic discussed...was funding and funding criteria.'

He proposed that ethnic community broadcasters needed their own national peak body: 'Despite differences among public broadcasters, generally we public ethnic broadcasters have been able to unite more closely and work for the common cause.'

The NEMBC's development over the years is thus greatly indebted to Tony's hard work, passion, and commitment to the ethnic broadcasting sector. Today, in recognition of his dedication to the NEMBC and the sector, there is a Tony Manicaros Grant which is given to support program content, events, training, archiving or other projects that benefit ethnic community broadcasting. This grant is open to ethnic and multicultural community broadcasters, program groups and stations from across Australia to make their project idea a reality.

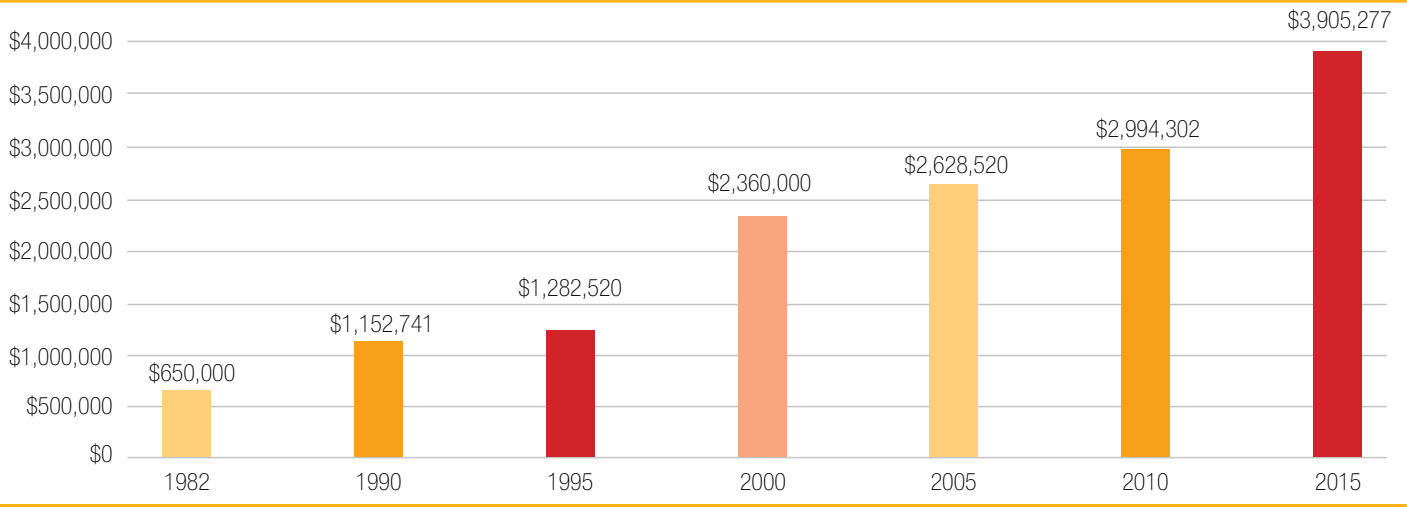
*'The harmony and single sense of purpose amongst ethnic broadcasters [means that] it would be desirable for a single body to represent all public ethnic broadcasters...'*

### Tony Manicaros First NEMBC President

#### NEMBC Presidents:

- 1985 - 1988: Tony Manicaros
- 1988 - 1990: Alex Lutero
- 1990-1992: George Sudull
- 1992-1995: Heinrich Stefanik
- 1995-2009: George Zangalis
- 2009-2011: Victor Marillanca
- 2011-2015: Tangikina (Tangi) Steen

## Funding for Ethnic Community Broadcasting



**Early Funding:** The NEMBC has played a key role in lobbying the Government for increased funding to the ethnic broadcasting sector over the years. As seen in this graph, Government funding for development and training within the ethnic broadcasting sector has significantly increased over time, with funding more than doubling by 1990 (just five years after the establishment of the NEMBC in 1985).

Community Broadcasting Funding Trends. Source: *Community Broadcasting Foundation Ltd*. This graph shows that the total level of Australian Government funding has risen by almost \$10 million and the community broadcasting sector has grown steadily over the years by 10%, with peak periods in 2007 - 2010 and 2011 - 2012. A total of \$4.576 million in funding is provided annually for General, Indigenous, Ethnic and RPH community broadcasting.

Overall, it can be seen that the rapid growth spurts of the sector throughout its history, directly correlate to trends in Government funding.

Minister Duffy announces ethnic community broadcasting funding to transfer from SBS to the Public Broadcasting Foundation

1985

1986

Australian Government funds study costs for 3500 foreign students/trainees

# 1987 - 1990

## CTV-1 Redfern: Australia's first community television channel

In 1987, CTV-1 was launched as not only nation's first cable television station, but also the first community channel to broadcast in Australia. Located in the basement of a high rise Housing Commission block in Sydney's inner city suburb of Redfern, the station began running as a media platform that invited all members of the community to voice their opinions.

From the very beginning, the station was quite literally open to anyone with an interest in community broadcasting, as people were able to walk in to the station and learn the skills required to work either in front or behind the camera. Although the channel no longer runs today, the station's pioneering work embedded the station into Australia's community broadcasting history as 'the people's channel'.

Since the birth of CTV-1, community television in Australia has grown significant presence, offering a diverse range of content for and by the multicultural communities of Australia. Today, Sydney's community broadcasting station is TVS, which is just one of several community television channels in Australia. Other channels include 44 (Adelaide), 31Digital (Brisbane), C31 (Melbourne), and WestTV (Perth).



A group of people at the launch of CTV1, Redfern Park, 1992 Source: South Sydney Council Archives.

## 1989: Migration Update!

### Increased migrant intake compels Government to adopt the National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia

By the late 1980's, the number of migrants accepted into Australia had increased significantly and had evolved the multicultural landscape of the country. With much controversy surrounding Australia's reprehensible White Australia immigration policies in the past, the Hawke Labor Government decided it was time for the nation to have official fundamental principles of multiculturalism. Thus in 1989, the *National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia* was introduced.

Under this new *National Agenda*, all new multiculturalism policies in Australia were to be formulated based on the following three core elements:

- cultural identity (expressing and sharing one's individual cultural heritage, including their language and religion);
- social justice (equality of treatment and opportunity, and the removal of barriers of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, gender or place of birth); and
- economic efficiency (the need to maintain, develop and utilise effectively the skills and talents of all Australians)

All Australians were also obliged to be committed to the nation's interests and basic principles, and accept that the right to express one's own culture and beliefs involves a reciprocal responsibility to also accept the right of others to express their own views and values.

Prior to this Agenda, a number of multicultural policy initiatives were also introduced such as the *1986 Access and Equity Strategy*, which aimed to improve access to government services and programs for people of non-English speaking backgrounds.



CTV 25th Anniversary reunion with past crew members. L to R: Darren Gray (producer and presenter), Clover Moore (Lord Mayor of Sydney), Doug Moody (writer) and Joy Hruby (presenter). Source: CTV-1 2012 Archives

**Jan 2:** Imparja Television begins satellite broadcasting to eastern and central Australia

**Apr:** First Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS) unit installed at Jigalong in WA

Alex Lutero becomes NEMBC President, through to 1991

1987

1988

**Sep 4:** CTV-1 in Redfern starts

2XX, 3CR, 3RRR, 4ZZZ and 2RSR form Progressive Radio Association (PRA)



## 1989: Funding Update!

### Hawke Government provides \$3.4 million in funding for national ethnic news and current affairs

By the late 1980's, the number of migrants accepted into Australia coinciding with the multicultural policy initiatives introduced throughout the 1980's, the Government supported Australia's growing ethnic community with funding. In 1989, immediately prior to the federal election, the Hawke Government announced that a budget of \$3.4 million was to be allocated specifically for the development of a national ethnic news and current affairs over the next three years.

This project greatly supported the ethnic broadcasting sector's growth well into the 1990's, and by 1990, there were more than 48 community broadcasting stations producing 650 hours of ethnic content per week, in 75 languages!



Prime Minister Bob Hawke launches the National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia in Sydney, 29 July 1989. Source: *Multicultural Australia website*

## The Ethnic Broadcaster goes national

In 1990, the NEMBC's quarterly journal, the Ethnic Broadcaster, began circulating nationally to all volunteer ethnic broadcasters, with the Fourth Quarter 1990 edition circulating to approximately 600 readers.

Today, the journal continues to represent and resource ethnic community broadcasters across Australia. The NEMBC produces three editions each year and distributes it to all member stations as well as other media institutions, multicultural organisations and settlement services around the country.

## The Ethnic Broadcaster through the ages



Hawke Labor Government allocates \$3.4 million for nationally networked ethnic news and current affairs

Aug 3: 3ZZZ starts broadcasting

The Ethnic Broadcaster circulated beyond members to all volunteer ethnic broadcasters. Fourth quarter 1990 edition with circulation of 600.

650 hours of ethnic community broadcasting per week through 48 stations in 75 languages

1989

1990

Community TV test transmissions in Sydney and Melbourne

Australia adopts *National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia*

First 100 community radio stations licensed

Aug 17: 3RPH starts broadcasting on main AM band with full metropolitan coverage

# 1990 - 1992

## 6EBA-FM 95.3: Perth's only full-time multilingual community radio station

Ethnic broadcasting officially began in Perth in 1977 at Radio 6NR, an AM Community station which broadcast for only 16 hours per week. At this time, 6EBA-FM did not officially exist as a full-time multilingual station



however, as the demand for ethnic broadcasting grew within the Perth community, the Australian Broadcasting Authority (now 'ACMA') eventually called for expressions of interest for a community licence in 1989. The Multicultural Radio and Television Association of Western Australia Inc. (MRTA) immediately jumped for this opportunity, applying for the licence and planning the needed funds to get the station up and running.

By 1990, 6EBA-FM began officially broadcasting in its own right from its own premises at 20 View Street, North Perth. A grand opening party was held on Australia Day 1991, which was attended by the then WA Premier, Dr Carmen Lawrence, as well as all of the station's ethnic groups. The station's volunteers worked together to set up two studios within the new premises, sound proofing and constructing radio consoles. This was the home of 6EBA until the station relocated to its current location at 386 Fitzgerald Street in September 1993.

Offering a diverse range of multilingual programs, the station was quickly named 'World Radio 6EBA-FM'. It remains Perth's only full-time community owned and operated multilingual radio station, broadcasting over 82 languages, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week. There are over 550 trained volunteers, with approximately 1000 people visiting the premises every week (including broadcasters, family and friends, and other curious guests). Youth participation at 6EBA has also significantly increased over the years, with approximately 20 hours of broadcasting produced and presented by youth groups each week.

One particular youth radio program run at 6EBA is 'Whadjuk Radio', which was launched in March 2007 as Perth's only Indigenous youth radio program. The program's successful launch and ongoing maintenance has been thanks to the hard work of the 6EBA team, Yorgum Aboriginal Family Counselling, Yirra Yaakin group and the ABmusic College.



6EBA studios at 386 Fitzgerald Street, North Perth 6016. Source: 6EBA Archives

## How does 6EBA broadcast in more than 82 languages?

Many broadcasters at 6EBA are multilingual and will speak in more than one language throughout their program!



Kwansuda Rogers, Penn Withnall, and Geoff Law of the Thai Program team at 6EBA studios. Source: Thai Community Radio Association of WA Inc. Archives



The 'Common Ground' group performing the Emu Dance at the opening of Whadjuk Radio, 2007. Source: 6EBA Archives

Another popular radio program at 6EBA, and one of the largest, is the Thai Radio Program. As Perth's Thai community continues to grow, the program has gained popularity through its exploration of Thai food, music, dancing, and Buddhist religion. On air every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 8pm, the program keeps the local Thai community up to date with news and events from their homeland, and also provides insight into different aspects of Thai culture to listeners from other ethnic backgrounds. The team is proud of what their program offers to the Perth community: *'Even many Australians and other nationalities who may not be able to understand the language tune in to hear the music we play every week.'*

For more information on the vast range of language programs airing on 6EBA, you can download their World Radio Program Guide at: <http://www.6eba.com.au/onair.php>

Dec 13: 6EBA goes to air in Perth

Sep: NEMBC Conference in Sydney. Heinrich Stefanik becomes NEMBC President, through to 1995

1990

1991



## Radio 2000 FM Sydney



*'Name the Language and we'll give you the time to listen'*

Radio 2tripleO 98.5 FM (call sign: 2000) is Sydney's biggest public multilingual broadcasting service that prides itself in broadcasting in over 57 different languages.



Established as part of the National Multiculturalism Policy stipulated in the 1992 Broadcasting Act, the sole purpose of the station was to cater for the information needs and interests of the non-English speaking background communities of New South Wales. The station also developed five bilingual programs which specifically target the growing youth sector of the migrant community.

With the successful development of such programs, and through the continued support of over 350 volunteers today, it's easy to see how Radio 2000 has continued to grow. But the station didn't have an easy start.

When Radio 2000 first began in 1992, there was much conflict among the different ethnic groups and individuals who were vying for control and influence within the station's management and operations. This struggle was also further complicated with the fact that Michael Thomson, the then leader of Radio 2000, retired from his role at the station in order to fulfil the role of general manager at the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBA). Thus, the internal struggles facing the station eventually led to the liquidation of Radio 2000 by 1996, after only five years on air.

Sadly, the closure of the station forced volunteer broadcasters to part ways in search of airtime in smaller, general or narrowcast stations around the city. This continued for several months until the community language groups, led by their conveners, eventually joined forces and approached the sector's peak organisations – including the NEMBC, CBAA, CBF, and ACMA – with the shared dream to revive the Radio 2000 service. After one year and three months, the persistence and determination of the station's community language groups officially paid off when the station was allowed back on air in March 1998.

Since that notorious day, Radio 2000 has evolved immensely. After the introduction of their digital broadcasting service in late 2010, the station has been able to expand its listenership and promote the exposure of different ethnic languages through its analogue broadcast, online streaming, and digital service '2000 Languages'. At Radio 2000, the team centres their programs on their shared belief: *'Your language defines who you are.'*

Radio 2000 recognises the importance of language, culture, and identity within the Australian community, providing an avenue for Sydney's ethnic community to share their voices each week. This year also marks the introduction of the station's first weekly Urdu-Punjabi radio program, *Dosti*. Launched on 15 February 2015, the program works to share knowledge of the Quran, community news, world and sports news, as well as different genres of traditional Sufi music.

You can tune into Radio 2000's programs at any time, from wherever you are in the world: <http://www.2000fm.com/>



Hosts of Radio 2000's first Urdu-Punjabi program, Dr Nighat Nasim and Mr Zahid Minhas.

Sep 16: 2000 starts broadcasting in Sydney

Sep: NEMBC Conference held in Adelaide.

1992

Nov 15: Public Broadcasting Association of Australia changes its name to Community Broadcasting Association of Australia

# 1992 - 1995

## 1992: Funding Update!

In 1992, the Australian Government granted \$1.4 million for the development of the Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project (AERTP). In May 1993, then Minister for Communications, Minister David Beddall, launched the project with the following mission:

- Provide high quality training to nearly 3000 ethnic radio broadcasters
- Deliver over 250,000 training contact hours
- Develop curricular and learning resources
- Provide real opportunities to women and young people in ethnic communities
- Provide no-cost training

In the beginning, the project was quite centralised in that people had to apply for training directly to the AERTP national coordinator's office. The project was developed as a 12 module, 68 hour 'introductory' radio course that ran through either TAFE colleges or with qualified trainers from the ABC, SBS and wider community radio sector.

After almost two years, the project was eventually decentralised and individual stations were able to apply to the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF) directly in order to run their own training courses as part of the project.

Despite the success of the training, the Australian Government eventually stopped funding for the project in 2004. Over the life of the project, more than 2,400 broadcasters from 82 different language groups received accredited training. The annual cost was just over \$200,000. 182 broadcasters were trained as trainers, many of whom continue to train new broadcasters to this day as volunteers.

Today, training for new broadcasting groups is funded (partially or fully) for individual stations through community radio start-up grants, administered by the CBF, but the termination of the AERTP has had a significant impact on ethnic community broadcasting. As one NEMBC member stated:

*'The current National Training Program (NTP), introduced in 2006, in no way compensated for the loss of the AERTP. Being underfunded, as is usual, it was pitched to a very small and narrow base, absorbing the greater part of money in administration and management costs, leaving the bulk of broadcasters—and almost the totality of ethnic broadcasters—out in the cold.'*

The NEMBC continues to campaign for the reintroduction of a nationally co-ordinated training project tailored to the needs of ethnic community broadcasters.



Bhupinder Sing Lalli, Amandeep Singh Sidhu and Jorahvar Singh (left to right), presenters of the Journey Across India program on 2AIR in Coffs Harbour, shortly after completing AERTP training at the station. Source: *The Ethnic Broadcaster*, Winter 2002.

Government commits a once-off grant of \$1.4 million for the ethnic radio training project - the AERTP

Satellite distribution of community radio programs begins, first via SBS and BBC

**Mar:** National Indigenous Media Association of Australia incorporated and central Australia

**May:** Minister for Communications David Beddall launches Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project (AERTP)

**Sep:** NEMBC Conference held in Darwin

1992

1993



## NEMBC sets up Women's Committee

In 1995, at the NEMBC's Annual General Meeting, ethnic community broadcasting history was made when the Council's membership decided to form a national committee of women broadcasters. Although women broadcasters had been engaged in community radio since its inception in the 1970's, this was the first time the NEMBC had formally recognised the valuable role that women played in ethnic community broadcasting. It also highlighted the way in which women's attendance and participation at NEMBC National Conferences in previous years had often been overshadowed by men.

Before the NEMBC Women's Committee was set up, the increasing number of women involved in ethnic broadcasting had already begun the push for more broadcasting coverage of issues relevant to women from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB). It was in 1993 that 3CR became the first community radio station to run a national program promoting the voices of NESB women, as well as issues specifically affecting the marginalised group. The program, *Accent of Women*, became the first national, multicultural women's program in Australia, and a key step toward the formation of NEMBC's national Women's Committee.

### Role of the Committee

Since its inception, the role of the Women's Committee has always been to investigate and make recommendations to the NEMBC regarding women's participation in ethnic community broadcasting, or any rising concerns. The Committee has representatives in each state and territory who are engaged in activities for women broadcasters from established language groups as well as new and emerging communities. Committee members are elected at the NEMBC Annual General Meeting and serve a two-year term.

Thankfully, through years of collaborative dedication and hard work between Committee members and ethnic broadcasters around Australia, there has been a distinct increase in women attending annual NEMBC conferences. Since 1995, there has also been an increase in women's participation within ethnic community broadcasting at local stations around Australia.

### Projects

The NEMBC's Women's Committee has run numerous projects over the years to encourage more active participation of women broadcasters – particularly in decision-making roles. The committee's projects also work to celebrate the achievements of culturally diverse women, not just within the sector, but within the wider community. One successful project run by the Committee was *Migrant Women in the Workforce*, a project which ran as an oral history series to recognise the contribution of migrant and refugee women to the Australian workforce. By interviewing and sharing the stories of migrant women broadcasters working within community media, the project also worked well to promote the profile of women broadcasters as a whole, and provide insight into their past and present experiences. These interviews can be downloaded, listened to, and replayed from the NEMBC Women's Committee page, and are also available as podcasts.

### Today

The NEMBC's Women's Committee today continues its role in representing women broadcasters nation-wide, and sharing their voices to the rest of the community. Podcasts from women broadcasters are also becoming a more frequent feature on the NEMBC website, as there is an entire section dedicated to supporting, celebrating, and connecting women in ethnic community broadcasting.

The Women's Committee runs forums in different States each year, inviting participants to join women broadcasters from around the nation in listening to keynote speakers, networking, as well as engaging in workshops and activities.

The NEMBC would like to formally thank the past and present conveners of the Women's Committee, who have all dedicated themselves to advancing the needs of women broadcasters within the sector.



NEMBC Women's Committee 2008: Marie, Irena, Joelle, Irene, Dan, Jaya and Cristina



Women's Committee 2004



NEMBC Women's Committee 2012

Sep: NEMBC Conference in Perth

NEMBC sets up Women's Committee

Paul Pearman appointed NEMBC Administration Officer, through to 1997

1994

1995

2BL broadcasts special coverage of 1994 bushfires

Oct 6: C31 starts regular Community TV broadcasting in Melbourne

*Accent of Women* program starts production at 3CR

# 1995 - 1998

## NEMBC's Youth Committee is formed

Looking back over the past 30 years, the NEMBC's history most definitely would not have been complete without the establishment of the organisation's Youth Committee in 1998. Initially established at the NEMBC conference held in Canberra, the Youth Committee has since spent over 17 years implementing initiatives to support young people in expressing their identity within notions of multiculturalism and ethnicity.

The Youth Committee recognises that multicultural youth broadcasters have unique motivations and approaches to community broadcasting, as their experiences and perspectives can differ to those of the older generations. For example, multicultural youth broadcasters come from diverse and hybrid cultural and linguistic backgrounds – many of whom have spent a majority of their life immersed within a mix of their parents' ethnic culture as well as the local Australian culture they experience every day.

Unlike the pioneers of ethnic community broadcasting of the 1970's and 1980's, young broadcasters today have grown up with multiculturalism. Ethnic community radio, alongside the support of the NEMBC's Youth Committee, provides them with the opportunity to voice their insights, perspectives and concerns. It also promotes intergenerational dialogue and understanding which, in turn, allows the perspectives of both generations to be shared and collaborated. Ultimately, this allows the sector to grow in line with the common goal of ethnic broadcasters: to develop and maintain connections to heritage, language, and cultural identity.

Working as the voice of Youth, the Committee's primary role therefore remains the same: to facilitate multicultural youth broadcasters in expressing their unique identity and perspectives, and regularly inform the NEMBC about their evolving needs and experiences. In this way, the Youth Committee and NEMBC is able to identify needs, and fulfil them through numerous initiatives such as campaigns, forums, and regular projects.

### Youth Committee Projects

Since 1998, the NEMBC's Youth Committee has facilitated dialogue between multicultural youth broadcasters through the implementation of a vast range of projects and annual conferences. One successful project was the 2013 Culture Shock project, in which Youth Committee members held a national singing competition for multicultural artists. At the end of the competition, a compilation CD was produced to share the talent of multicultural youth.

After many months of planning, on 26 November 2007, another momentous youth initiative was launched: Agents of Change Pilot Training. Funded by the CBF, this project was designed to address the issue of generational change and a shortage of qualified culturally and linguistically diverse trainers within the sector. It worked to train multicultural youth broadcasters to become qualified broadcast trainers, and to enhance their skills through workshops in community development and governance. Workshops were all held at 3ZZZ in Melbourne, which gave participants the opportunity to see a full time ethnic station in full swing!

## NEMBC launches first ever multi-lingual news service: The Ethnic News Digest

In 1997, the NEMBC introduced a multilingual news service called the Ethnic News Digest, which provided broadcasters with a summary of news and current affairs issues. The news summaries were produced three times a week in English and in more than 15 other languages.

Although the multilingual news service was highly informative and fulfilled the needs of non-English speaking audiences, it was eventually discontinued by the early 2000's as many broadcasters had become self-sufficient in sourcing and producing news in their own languages.

## 1996: Funding Update!

In August 1996, the Government's announcement of \$3 million funding for ethnic community broadcasting over the next three years became the sector's first increase in funding in 10 years!

The Government also included an additional \$1.5 million for the development of the sector's IT and satellite infrastructure.

**Sep:** NEMBC Conference held in Melbourne. George Zangalis becomes NEMBC President, through to 2009

**Aug:** Government announces additional \$3 million over 3 years to support ethnic and multicultural community broadcasting

**Oct:** NEMBC Conference held in Adelaide

Bruce Francis appointed Executive Officer of NEMBC, though to 2002

NEMBC launches multi-lingual news service Ethnic News Digest

1995

1996

1997



Since 2007, the NEMBC has also held Youth Media Conferences, which aim to bring together current and future multicultural youth broadcasters (CALD Youth). These conferences have become a pivotal event for the NEMBC and its multicultural youth members, as an outlet for innovative ideas, development and networking.

The NEMBC would like to thank the wonderful members of the Youth Committee over the past 17 years, for their dedication to multicultural youth broadcasters around Australia and thus their contribution to the ethnic community broadcasting sector as a whole.

A comprehensive list of past and present Youth Committee members can be found at the end of this magazine. This year, the 2015 NEMBC Radioactive Youth Media Conference will be held in Melbourne on 27 November. For more information regarding Youth projects and upcoming conferences, please contact the NEMBC Project Officer on 03 9486 9549 or via email at [projectofficer@nembc.org.au](mailto:projectofficer@nembc.org.au)

**Past Youth Media Conferences include:**

- 2007: Melbourne Conference
- 2009: Perth Conference
- 2010: Canberra Conference
- 2012: Adelaide Conference
- 2013: Brisbane Conference
- 2014: Darwin Conference
- 2015: Melbourne Conference



The 2013 Radioactive Youth Committee



2009 Radioactive Youth Conference, Perth

## Sector Growth Update!

By 1998, ethnic community radio was broadcasting for 1,400 hours per week, in 90 languages! This demonstrated great progress for the sector as just 8 years prior to this, in 1990, there was an estimated 650 hours of ethnic community broadcasting aired per week in just 75 languages.

1998 also marked a great milestone for community television, as stations were now broadcasting for 85 hours per week in 25 different languages!

**Nov:** NEMBC Conference held in Brisbane

Ethnic community radio now broadcasting in 90 languages for 1,400 hours per week and CTV in 25 languages for 85 hours per week

**Nov:** NEMBC conference held in Canberra and NEMBC sets up Youth Committee

Australian Ethnic Radio Training Project celebrates 2,000th trainee

NEMBC Conference in Perth. 2NCR Lismore is winner of Inaugural Tony Manicaros Award

**1997**

**1998**

**1999**

Community Access Network (CAN) implemented, giving all community radio stations a PC and online capability

**May:** Government announces funding for Contemporary Music Industry Initiative, which becomes AMRAP

# 2000 - 2002

## 1CMS: the story behind Canberra's Multicultural Service

Before Radio 1CMS (FM91.1) first aired on 15 July 2000, Canberra's **CMSRADIO FM 91.1** only source of ethnic community radio was through 2XX (established back in 1975). At this time, ethnic programs on 2XX were typically allocated only half an hour per week, with the participation of approximately 25 language groups.

By 1977, the Ethnic Broadcasters Council of the ACT and Surrounding Districts (EBC) was established to represent Canberra's multilingual broadcasters who dedicated their time to gain station sponsorships, implement fundraising campaigns, and lobby for CBF ethnic program grants. These efforts continued until tensions eventually arose between EBC broadcasters and the 2XX management, as broadcasters began to question why ethnic programs were only allocated 13 hours of air time each week when their programs contributed to 40% of the station's overall budget.

Unfortunately, all renegotiation attempts regarding access conditions between the EBC and 2XX management were unsuccessful. The EBC was eventually expelled, and ethnic broadcasting activities in Canberra were terminated from January to August 1993.

Despite this apparent major setback, the termination of ethnic broadcasting in Canberra turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the multicultural city. It was the start of a new phase for ethnic broadcasting in Canberra, as the EBC's original group of thirteen 'refugees' decided to take the first steps toward establishing 1CMS (which has become Canberra's first full-time ethnic radio station today).

In order to gain air time for ethnic programming, the EBC joined forces with members of the Greek community who had already obtained a test licence thanks to new provisions under the Broadcast Services Act. Together, EBC and the members of the Greek community then approached the CSPPR Canberra Public Stereo Radio (now Artsound) group for further support. The EBC eventually hired the facilities of CSPPR from 1993 through to 1997, and happily shared airtime with the group – EBC on Tuesdays and Fridays, CSPPR on weekends. Thus, ethnic radio made its comeback to Canberra's airwaves!

Although the support of other broadcaster groups allowed the EBC to gain airtime, funding for studios and transmitters proved to be a challenge for the ethnic broadcasters. Thankfully, funding and development continued for the group thanks to sponsorships, donations and the dedication of volunteers (special mention to the enormous efforts of Diana Rahman, Jaques Petit, Jim Saragas, Ruth Ederle and Heinrich Stefanik).

By 1999, the EBC received a full-time test licence for community radio on 103.5FM and thus CMS was born. In their licence application, the EBC extended their aim to support Indigenous broadcasting, and the station has continued to adhere to this today, with ten hours of programming each week through the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS) as well as other live Indigenous local programs.

Having broadcast on the test licence for several months, great relief finally came by July 2000 when the station was officially granted a full time licence. Keeping up with the times, the station continued to renovate and revamp its studios and facilities over the ensuing years, through the joint effort of dedicated volunteers and the leadership of Werner Albrecht (Former President) and Gaby Hasler (Treasurer).

Today, 1CMS broadcasts in over 35 languages to over 54,000 listeners in Canberra.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating or broadcasting a language program with 1CMS, please contact the station via [info@cmsradio.org.au](mailto:info@cmsradio.org.au) or call 02 6287 7058.



EBC members signing the CBF agreement for funding to buy their very first transmitter, Australian-Austrian Club 1994. Source: 1CMS Archives

## Sector Growth Update!

In 2001, ethnic community broadcasting grew to an average of 2,439 hours per week! There were 111 different languages circulating airwaves each week, through 100 community radio stations!

1CMS on air in Canberra

**Nov:** NEMBC Conference in Sydney. Tony Manicaros Award to 2RSR. NEMBC life members: Charles SeeKee, Denise Banks, Ludmila Constantinova (Mickey) Hayward, Victor Borg, Stepan Kerkyasharian.

NEMBC completes oral history radio series "Migrant Women in the Workforce", Nicola Joseph Executive Producer

**Feb:** National Indigenous News Service (NINS) launched

2000

2001

First 200 community radio and 5 CTV stations operating



## 2MFM: Sydney's Islamic Radio Station begins

Sydney's Muslim community radio, 2MFM (FM92.1), first started broadcasting in 1995 during the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan and Dhul-hijja (Pilgrimage month). Over the course of these holy months, the station's broadcasts were aired 24 hours as a way for the Muslim community listeners to hear the calls to prayer.



As Arabic and Lebanese became the main ethnic languages communicated within Sydney's Muslim community, it came as no surprise that 2MFM's programs were quickly in high demand. Thus by 24 May 2001, the station was officially granted a full community broadcasting licence, and the team began airing on 3 August that same year.

Today, 2MFM's programs continue to be primarily transmitted in Arabic and English, but the station also prides itself on its other multilingual services such as its Indonesian, Turkish, Urdu and Iraqi programs. The station provides the Sydney community with insights into Islamic religious teachings, educational programs for children, as well as updates on multicultural and Islamic festivals. The team has also launched a number of media campaigns, such as their *Together, Standing Against Extremism and Racism* campaign which won them the Australian Multicultural Marketing Award in October 2015.



2MFM representatives receiving the 2015 Multicultural Marketing Award, Sydney Opera House. Source: 2MFM Archives

Ultimately, it is through these campaigns and ethnic programming that the 2MFM team aims to bridge the gap between Australian Muslims and the wider community. The station strives to cover timely and sensitive issues, as a way to facilitate community members in confronting any issues or cultural/religious misconceptions that may threaten social cohesion within Sydney's multicultural community.

For more information on 2MFM's programs and campaigns, please visit their official website: <http://www.2mfm.org/>



Didgeridoo players at the 1CMS Outside Broadcast tent, National Multicultural Festival 2010. Source: 1CMS Archives



1CMS broadcasters reporting live from the National Multicultural Festival 2014, Garema Place Canberra. Source: 1CMS Archives

## Funding Update!

### NEMBC receives \$104,000 grant for ENGAGE Project

In 2002, the Victorian Department of Multicultural Affairs provided the NEMBC with a \$104,000 grant to support the NEMBC in implementing their Engage Project. The aim of the project is to assist new and emerging communities in understanding media, gain leadership skills and receive training within community radio.

*'This opportunity is very important for us as a community to share our culture, to share our knowledge...and to help us to be connected with the community we live in'*

- **Rashidi Sumaili (Congoese Programmer and one of the first voices of the Engage Project)**

Aug 3: Muslim Community Radio 2MFM starts in Sydney

Nov 1: NEMBC Conference held in Melbourne. Tony Manicaros Award winner Gavin Unsworth, 4EB/4ZZZ. Life member: George Sudull.

NEMBC receives \$104,000 grant from Victorian Department of Multicultural Affairs to recruit and train broadcasters from small, emerging communities

NEMBC Conference held in Adelaide.

2001

2002

Jun 2: Digital Delivery Network (DDN) rolls out

# 2003 - 2006

## The first Victorian Ethnic Broadcasters Forum is launched

On 22 July 2006, the very first Ethnic Broadcasters Forum was held in Melbourne. Sponsored by 3ZZZ, the NEMBC and Community Broadcasting Association of Victoria (CBAV), the event was launched as the beginning of a series of subsequent events to be held in years to follow. One of the primary purposes of the forum is to allow ethnic broadcasters from around Victoria, to gather and discuss ideas on ethnic programming issues, training, and share personal experiences and perspectives.

As the first of many annual events to follow, the 2006 Ethnic Broadcasters Forum attracted over 100 Broadcasters and received overwhelmingly good feedback - both from attendees and presenters. Running from 9 am until 5 pm, the all-day event was filled with a presentation of papers, workshops, networking and a hearty lunch. Broadcasters attended from metro, sub-metro and rural community radio stations as well as Channel 31, SBS, the CBAA and CBAV.

Opening the event was George Lekakis, Chairperson from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, who acknowledged the pivotal role ethnic broadcasters play within the community:

*'As a sector that runs primarily on volunteers, you play a frontline role in the battle against racism, prejudice and ignorance. You have helped Victoria become probably the most cohesive and harmonious multicultural society.'*

Another keynote speaker was Olga Mendis, one of the original broadcasters on 3ZZZ and a previous Council member of the station. Drawing from the key discussion topic of the night, 'The Changing Face of Victoria', Mendis explored a variety of topics including multiculturalism, discrimination, as well as The White Australia Policy's standing effects on the Australian community, and the importance of Ethnic Community Broadcasting in the evolution of Australia's throughout its multicultural history.

One of the key highlights of the event, were the papers presented on the uniform defamation laws which came into effect in January 2006. These papers addressed the effects on Ethnic Broadcasting, restrictions that they may cause, and how media reporting in general may change as a result.



Women's Italian Groups gather at the very first Ethnic Broadcasters Forum, Melbourne 2006

Overall, the 2006 Ethnic Broadcasters Forum proved to be a successful beginning to the series. 3ZZZ and the NEMBC reiterate the importance of continuing events such as this, as they provide an opportunity for ethnic broadcasters to meet and learn together without the formalities of a conference. With subsequent events held such as the 2012 Forum in Carlton; the 2013 Forum in Parkville; the 2014 Forum in Ballarat; and the 2015 Forum in Box Hill; we hope that the Ethnic Broadcasters Forum will continue to be a key event on the Victorian Ethnic Community Radio calendar.

*'Attending the Ethnic Broadcasters forum not only helped me meet different people from different backgrounds, but I also got to hear their experiences in ethnic broadcasting.'*

**Minh Hien Dinh (3ZZZ representative speaker at the 2013 Forum)**



Attendees listening to speeches at the 2013 EB Forum, Maltese Centre (Parkville). Source: 3ZZZ July 2013 Bulletin

Darce Cassidy appointed NEMBC Executive Officer, through to 2005

Government hourly subsidy for ethnic community radio reduced to \$34 per hour, with continued increases in total ethnic programming

**Dec 3:** NEMBC Conference held in Canberra. Manicaros Award joint winners: Anthony Colombo (2000FM) and Bree McKilligan (3CR). Life member: Alex Lutero

Government commits \$2 million p.a. to support community radio transmission costs and \$500,000 p.a. for sector-wide training

2003

2004

Australian Indigenous Communications Association (AICA) set up



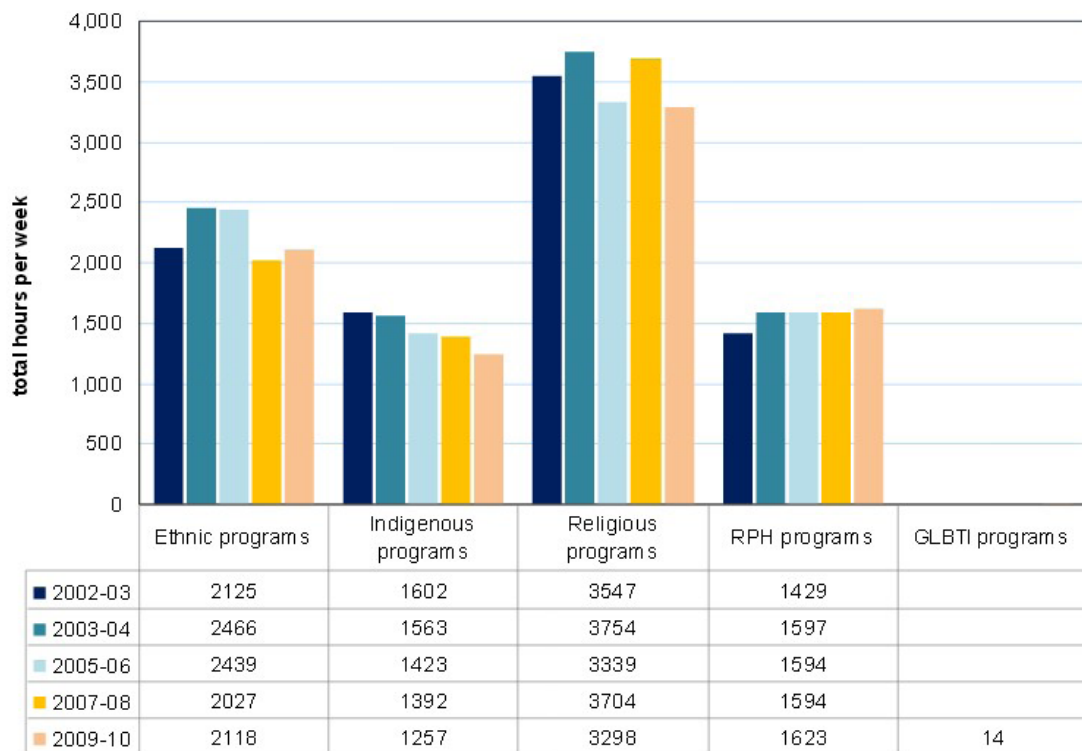


Participants at the 2014 Ethnic Broadcasters Forum, Sovereign Hill (Ballarat). Source: NEMBC

## Sector Update!

According to one of the *Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's (CBAA)* latest station Consensus reports (2012), the number of hours of ethnic programming has steadily increased over recent years despite a short drop between 2007-2008. Indigenous programs have declined significantly over this decade; however we hope to see these figures rise over the next few years.

Specialist programming: total hours per week, trend 2002-10



Source: CBAA 2012 Survey Report

Annual NEMBC Conference held in Perth. Tony Manicaros Award joint winners 4EB and 2XX.

Suzana Mihajlovic appointed Executive Officer.

Nov 5: NEMBC Conference held in Geelong. Tony Manicaros Awards to Karina Ceron 7THE and Oscar Recinos 3ZZZ.

Jul: Victorian Ethnic Broadcasters Forum held in Melbourne

Dec: NEMBC Conference held in Albury Wodonga. Life Membership to Dana Popovich.

Tim Tolhurst appointed Executive Officer

2004

2005

2006

# 2007 - 2010

## AICA and NEMBC come together for 'The historic joint conference'

On 10 November 2007, the first ever joint conference between the Australian Indigenous Communications Association (AICA) and the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council (NEMBC) was held in Brisbane.

Described as a 'historic joint conference', the theme of the two-day event was *Language, Culture and Identity* – a theme that participants from both sectors explored through interactive talks and workshops. Through sharing personal experiences around this theme, participants found common ground about the importance of community media in building community strength. They also discussed the ways in which the sectors have great potential persuasive power if they continue working together in lobbying campaigns and raising awareness for Indigenous and ethnic broadcasting.

Several youth awards were also distributed during the conference, including youth awards for programs run on 6EBA Perth (*Whadjuk* Indigenous program awarded for 'best new talent') and Radio Adelaide (*Neovoices* program awarded for 'multicultural youth program of the year').

Key speakers and panellists of the event were: Dr Angela Romano (QUT), Ms Voula Messimeri (FECCA), and Mr Joe Caputo (VMC Commissioner). To read more about the fascinating topics explored by these speakers, please feel free to access the conference papers available via the NEMBC website.



Heinrich Stefanik (1 CMS) and Victor Marillanca (2XX),  
at the 2010 NEMBC 25th Anniversary Awards ceremony

Every year, the NEMBC holds a National Conference which brings together politicians, academics, community workers and over 100 multicultural broadcasters from around Australia. Held in a different state or territory each year, the conferences provide a unique opportunity for community language broadcasters to meet, share their experiences, network, as well as learn about developments or issues relating to ethnic broadcasting and multiculturalism.

Past conferences include:

- 2007 Joint Conference (AICA/NEMBC), Brisbane
- 2008 Annual Conference, Sydney
- 2009 Annual Conference, Melbourne
- 2010 Annual Conference (25 Years of NEMBC), Canberra
- 2012 Annual Conference, Adelaide
- 2013 Annual Conference, Brisbane
- 2014 Annual Conference, Darwin

This year, the NEMBC Conference will be held in Melbourne from 27-29 November and will be in commemoration of the past 30 years of the NEMBC. This year's theme is '*30 years: Create - Connect - Celebrate*', which will consider the development of ethnic community broadcasting since it started in the 1970's. Want to be a part of our next conference? Simply visit the NEMBC website or contact us on (03) 9486 9549 for more information on how you or your organisation can get involved.

## Sector Update!

Sadly, between 2007 and 2008 there was a significant drop in ethnic language circulation as there was an 18% decrease in the production of ethnic program content from a peak of 2,466 hours per week recorded in 2003. These numbers reflected the urgent need for more Government funding in order to stimulate the Ethnic Community Broadcasting content production levels.



**Sep:** NSW Ethnic Broadcasters Forum held in Sydney

**Nov:** NEMBC holds annual conference in conjunction with Australian Indigenous Broadcasting Communications Association (AICA) in Brisbane

A significant decline in production of ethnic program content

**Apr:** Russell Anderson appointed Executive Officer of NEMBC

**Nov:** NEMBC Conference in Sydney

2007

2008

**Feb:** Australian Community Television Alliance established



## Black Saturday Fires: Community Radio Stations Respond

As many of us would remember, on Saturday 7 February 2009, Victoria was hit with the worst bushfire disaster in the nation's history. Described as a 'firestorm', the forceful blaze that blanketed the State reached 100,000 kilowatts per square metre and travelled 110 kms an hour. Claiming 173 lives, devastating 78 communities and destroying 2,029 homes – it is apparent why the day has been hailed as 'Black Saturday'.

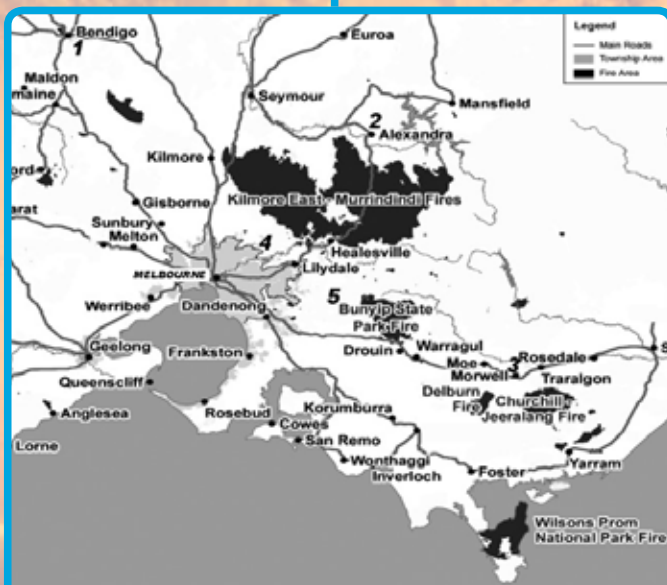
Although the fires dispersed throughout several regions of the State, there were two major fires that received a lot of media coverage: the Murrindindi and Kilmore Shires fires, not far from Melbourne. One community radio station in Murrindindi, Radio Murrindindi UGFM, played a significant role in updating community members on the situation, and reassuring any callers who had contacted the station in panic. Broadcasting from UGFM throughout the duration of the fires, Peter Weeks described: *'It was important to keep repeating information every 15 minutes so people would know when to tune in. We found ourselves trying to calm people down and give them the best information possible.'*

As UGFM had established good relations with the emergency management committee and they received a lot of information from local people that they knew and trusted, they were able to alert residents in advance of the fire front. They were actually the first to provide communication to the town of Marysville at 5pm, which was followed by an ABC report half an hour later. The station was thus able to alert residents of the surrounding community and saved many lives in the process.

Another station in Mill Park, Plenty Valley Radio (3PVR FM 88.6) also received updates from the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and started broadcasting the warnings as they arrived. Four experienced broadcasters and presenters at the station volunteered their time and developed a schedule to work through the night until 2am the next morning. With 11 ethnic programs that broadcast from the station, presenters of these programs also relayed the information on the bushfires in their language to the local community.

Other community radio stations who were not necessarily directly impacted by the fires assisted with the relief effort. Brisbane's 4EB organised an appeal which raised \$50,000, half of which was donated to the bushfires in Victoria and the other half to the floods in Northern Queensland. In Melbourne, 3ZZZ ran community announcements to promote the emergency appeal of the Red Cross, whilst 3RRR-FM did emergency relief packages. A radio program at 3RRR-FM called 'Transference' sent out a single call for toiletries – from clean sheets to baby wipes. Volunteers donated their time and vehicles and most of the drop off areas in the Murrindindi Shire received toiletry packages from the station's efforts. Similarly, 3CR in Melbourne ran community announcements and pointed people towards websites where they could volunteer their services. Programmers picked up stories about the fires and focused on other issues not being covered by the mainstream media including the loss of animals and wildlife.

Overall, it is thanks to community radio stations around Australia that our communities are able to be informed in the event of natural disasters or extreme weather conditions prone to the country. All these community radio stations have felt the trauma of the Black Saturday disaster, both inside their stations and within their own community.



Map of the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires. The numbers on the map are: 1 is KLM in Bendigo number- 2 is UGFM in Alexandra - 3 is GCR in Morwell - 4 is PVR in Mill Park and 5 is Yarra Valley.

**Apr:** Radioactive Multicultural Youth Broadcasters' Forum held in Perth

Ethnic community broadcasting grows to an average 2,439 hours per week in 111 languages through 100 radio stations

**Nov:** NEMBC Conference held in Melbourne. Victor Marillanca elected NEMBC President, to 2011

2009

**Feb 7:** Community Radios respond to Black Saturday Bushfires

**May:** Government commits over \$11 million over three years for first phase of community radio's digital services

# 2010 - 2012

## Melbourne's community radio stations make 'the switch' to digital radio

On Thursday 14 April 2011, community broadcasting history was made when Melbourne's nine community radio stations made their digital radio network debut. For the first time in history, all nine stations simultaneously broadcast live from Melbourne's Federation Square. These stations were: 3CR, 3KND, 3MBS, PBS, 3RRR, 3ZZZ, 89.9 LightFm, SYN and Vision Australia Radio.

The broadcasts were exciting and vibrant, with a diverse range of programming. Programs featured specialist music, current affairs, youth, ethnic and services, and even content for listeners with print disabilities. A short joint simulcast on all nine new digital services was run, then each station switched to their local programming. Opening the event was Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's General Manager, Kath Letch, who welcomed the move to digital radio:

*The CBAA is delighted to see community digital radio launched in Melbourne...Community broadcasters will make a strong addition to the diversity and local content of digital radio services available to the Melbourne community.'*

As part of the *CBAA National Digital Radio Project*, the success of the digital launch was thanks to Federal Government funding delivered through the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF). For this project, \$11.2 million of funding was allocated to plan, design, implement and operate infrastructure for community digital radio services over a three year period (2009-2012). This event marked the first stage of the project, which applied metropolitan-wide broadcasting services in the capital cities of Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth. It was just one day after this event that Adelaide stations launched their digital services too.

### So why go digital?

By December 2010, there were already over 200,000 digital radios that had been sold in Australia and by 2011 there were already 700,000 digital listeners, accounting for ten percent of the radio audience! Switching to digital radio was imperative for community radio stations in Australia to adapt to the new media landscape or risk losing audience reach.



In order to survive, community broadcasters must maintain innovation, take risks and invest to ensure the voices of ethnic groups and other marginalised groups are still heard outside mainstream media channels. Furthermore, unlike digital television, the introduction of digital radio did not mean community broadcasters had to 'switch-off' their analogue radio services. Digital radio services were simply introduced as complementary service.



Crowds gather at Federation Square for digital debut of Melbourne's nine community radios, 2011.  
Source: CBAA Archives

## Did you know?

Australia became one of the first countries to implement the new DAB+ format (Digital Audio Broadcasting using enhanced audio coding), which offers text and pictures, as well as audio.

**Aug:** Radioactive Multicultural Youth Broadcasters' Forum held in Canberra

**Sep 14:** Community Media Training Organisation (CMTO) is incorporated, which includes NEMBC nominee on its board

**Nov:** NEMBC Conference in Canberra. Tony Manicaros Award to Daniel Malouf (2XX)

NEMBC completes pilot training project 'Agents for Change'

## 2010

**Jun 11:** C31 Melbourne starts digital TV broadcasting

**Oct 10:** First community radio digital broadcast by 'Inspire Digital' in Sydney



## NEMBC partners in 'Next Generation Media' project

With the aim of engaging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth in community broadcasting, in 2012 the NEMBC collaborated with the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) and SYN Media to launch the *Next Generation Project*.

Funded by the Community Broadcasting Foundation, this unique project offered 22 young people the opportunity to learn media, leadership and radio broadcasting skills for two weeks during a January 2012 Summer School. Young people aged 16 – 25 from CALD backgrounds were eligible, whether they were second-generation and newly arrived immigrants, with the understanding that 'young people from culturally diverse backgrounds are not just under-represented in the media but also misrepresented'.



### NEXT GENERATION MEDIA

The project began with a two week Summer School, during which time participants undertook classes in radio broadcasting, media theory and leadership. During this time, students were also taken on tours of various radio stations around Melbourne including SBS, ABC, 3ZZZ Multicultural Community Radio and 3CR Community Radio. This enabled them to gain an understanding of how different stations operate and the various roles available in radio broadcasting.

After the Summer School, students were split into teams of 4 and commenced 12 weeks of radio broadcasting at SYN, with each team producing a one hour show every week with the support of professional journalists who volunteered to mentor the group. For Monga Mukasa, a Graduate of the Next Generation Program who is originally from Tanzania, the best thing about the project was the connections he made with the mentor journalists: 'They gave us tips on how to get into the media and really gave us the confidence and courage to do what we wanted with our stories... I always wanted to do journalism and broadcasting...but I didn't know what steps to take. This really got us familiar with what the media is like and opened the door for us to continue.'

Among the 19 other students, Monga graduated from the Next Generation project on 4 May 2012 at the HOUSE of SYN (headquarters of Melbourne's youth community station). To close the ceremony, Monga performed a special song in which he remarked, 'On the television you don't get to see a lot of people who have come from different backgrounds but we all have a lot of knowledge we can bring. If we are the next generation of journalists, it will be really good to see... I can't wait!'

Representing the Community Broadcasting Foundation, Jo Curtin also expressed the vital benefits of the project, 'This is the kind of project that will hopefully help overcome some of the imbalances that we see in the mainstream media and, ultimately, overcome racism, which is what all of us here would like to see.'

The NEMBC has continued to work alongside youth and media service agencies to run the Next Generation project annually. In 2013, the project was successfully run in South Australia. As Australia's mainstream media has come under criticism for underrepresenting and misrepresenting the cultural reality of this country, the NEMBC strongly believes that training projects such as this are as important as ever. These projects allow us to diversify media in Australia, increase the number of CALD journalists, and provide the public with an understanding of diverse experiences and perspectives. Culturally diverse young people are not just under-represented in the mainstream media, but under-represented in community broadcasting as well. Therefore this project provides the dedicated, tailored and holistic approach needed to engage them and ensure their voices are heard.



### Aims

- Build the capacity of CALD young people in terms of leadership skills and empower them through meaningful participation in the media
- Facilitate young people's connection to heritage, language, culture and identity through media participation
- Create a public voice for young people from diverse cultures
- Provide an opportunity for intercultural dialogue, communication and understanding
- Educate the wider community on the issues and experiences of newly arrived and second-generation CALD young people
- Provide a mentoring opportunity for young CALD media broadcasters
- Provide a strong foundation for continued participation in the media through training and networks
- Diversify media in Australia by increasing the number of CALD journalists
- Lay the foundations for participants to gain an accredited qualification through ongoing participation after basic training

AMRAP/Airt's Ethnic and Multicultural Music Initiative launched

NEMBC launches new website includes capability of podcasting and streaming by members

Nov: NEMBC Conference held in Launceston

Nov: Spanish program at 3ZZZ wins Tony Maniarcos Award

Nov: Tangi Steen becomes NEMBC President

NEMBC partners in 'Next Generation Media' project to engage CALD youth in community broadcasting

2011

2012

Apr 14: Melbourne's nine community radio stations make their digital radio debut

May: Government announces major funding increase, including additional \$3 million per year for community broadcasting content funding

# 2012 - 2015

## NEMBC's 2013 ENGAGE Project: Empowering regional communities

In the words of NEMBC's CEO, Russell Anderson, 'There are almost a dozen different language communities out there who could be on air, and they're not getting that voice. This program is actually going to provide that opportunity.'

In January 2013, the NEMBC, with the help of *Diversitat* (a registered training organisation), successfully implemented the ENGAGE project which aimed at creating the right environment for sustainable ethnic programs as an important source of information, entertainment and news for local regional communities. The project was run as a 6-week long broadcasting training program and was conducted in regional and rural areas of Victoria to support these new and emerging communities who were not represented at their local community station. By the end of the 6-week training, participants were 'radio-ready' and able to start a three month on-air trial to broadcast in their own language.

By using data provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on new and emerging communities and corroborating them with the program guides of local regional radio stations, the NEMBC identified the Iraqi community in Shepparton as the first group that could benefit from the project. Shepparton has a high number of Iraqi and Afghan migrants, with approximately 3000 Iraqi and 1000 Afghan community members, thus a partnership was formed with *ONE FM* Shepparton to help these groups gain access to their local community media.

Soon after, Mildura became the second training area selected for the project due to the growing number of African and Afghan migrants. Here, the NEMBC partnered with *HOT FM* and the *Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC)*.

Following the conclusion of the 2013 project, the NEMBC has continued to assist Shepparton and had a one day visit to the region on Thursday 20 March 2014, to follow up on the outcomes of the project. A targeted women's training project was also run to ensure that ethnic women broadcasters were also represented.

The overall success of the *ENGAGE project* over the years can be measured by the high-level of completion by participants; all participants completed the training course and 85% completed the course material and received accredited certificates. Three language programs (Arabic, Swahili and Karen) programs went on-air and remain on-air as sustainable programs. Additionally, the three community radio stations in Shepparton, Mildura and Bendigo have continued to improve their support and engagement of new migrant communities in their areas. Mildura's Hot FM now has ten ethnic programs, while Shepparton's One FM will commence a new Congolese program in 2015.

Overall, the NEMBC has a strong focus on assisting new and emerging communities and the ENGAGE project has provided a good model for this. With continued funding and community support for the project, it is planned that a full day of multicultural programming will commence in the rural regions by 2017.



Participants enjoying the workshops run by Engage Project, OneFM Shepparton 2013. Source: NEMBC Archives



NEMBC's Russell Anderson and Jinghua Qian at OneFM Shepparton with OneFM Administration Officer Sharon Chapman and NEMBC's Hsin-Yi Lo. Source: NEMBC Archives

Ethnic community broadcasting reaches average weekly airtime of 2,000 hours per week in over 100 languages

**Nov:** NEMBC Conference in Adelaide.

**Jan:** NEMBC launches 2013 Engage Project

**Mar:** NEMBC launches Leadership Media Manual and Media Kit

2012

2013



## NEMBC launches Media Kit

On 20 March 2013, the NEMBC launched a celebration for the distribution of their Media Kit. In line with Harmony Day celebrations, the launch was officially opened by Ms Amanda Paxton, State Director (Victoria) for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, at 3ZZZ in Fitzroy where broadcasters, community leaders and associate politicians gathered for the event.

Essentially, the Media Kit is a resource kit designed to equip community radio stations with the knowledge to reach out to new and emerging communities and to provide important information to multicultural community organisations about how new and emerging communities can become radio broadcasters, how to proactively engage with mainstream media organisations, and how to respond to negative media coverage.

New and emerging communities may not be aware of the benefits that community radio stations can offer their community. At the same time, radio stations are often too busy to reach out and involve these communities. Therefore, with the launch of the Media Kit, the NEMBC aims to bridge this gap, and assist new and emerging communities to start a radio program as well as gain key skills in leadership.

The kit includes a booklet for radio stations entitled *Engaging Communities, Involving New and Emerging Communities at Your Radio Station* and booklets for communities entitled *Value of Community Radio, Supporting New and Emerging Communities to Broadcast, A Handbook for Youth Empowerment Through Media Participation* and a third booklet entitled *Leadership Media Manual*. The kit also includes a DVD video that breaks down the process of training for ethnic community broadcasters.

The NEMBC has worked with a range of partners to produce and distribute this Media Kit, and is extremely proud at its ongoing success following the launch.

Today, you can access and download these booklets and DVD via the NEMBC website ([www.nembc.org.au](http://www.nembc.org.au)).



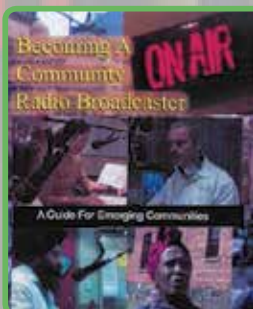
*The Leadership Media Manual* is a resource for people interested in the basics of leadership and the effective use of media.



*A Handbook for Youth Empowerment Through Media Participation*, uses the NEMBC's 'Next Generation Media Project' as a practical example of how to train young people in community radio.



A booklet for radio stations titled *Engaging Communities: Involving New and Emerging Communities at Your Radio Station* includes information about refugee communities and the role community radio can play in breaking down barriers. It also informs how radio stations can reach-out and engage with the communities and settlement service providers.



The *Becoming a Community Radio Broadcaster DVD* shows what it looks like inside a radio station studio, how it works and how training takes place. This is a good resource tool for showing new emerging communities how community radio operates.



A booklet for communities titled *Value of Community Radio, Supporting New and Emerging Communities to Broadcast*, provides helpful advice to service providers and includes background information on community radio and how it works, how to get involved in radio and the importance of community radio for emerging communities and building community connections.

Nov: NEMBC annual Conference held in Brisbane

NEMBC National Conference held in Darwin

CBAA releases latest statistics

NEMBC celebrates 30th birthday!

2013

2014

2015

The CBAA begins renewed strategic plan to continue leading the sector's vision.

# NEMBC Committee Members

If you see any errors, please let us know before 31 December 2015 so we can correct them or add anyone who is missing.

## Executive Committee Members [1995 – 2015]

Abdul Ghannoum	Hans Degenhart	Kenneth Kadirgamar	Osai Faiva
Alex Lutero	Heinrich Stefanik	Luchi Santer	Patricia Karvelas
Brenda Degenhart	Irene Tavutavu	Luigi Romanelli	Peter Ho
Cristina Descalzi	Jaipaul Bangar	Mahendra Pathik	Ramkumar
Dr Tangikina Steen	Jaya Srinivas	Manuel V Rodrigues	Konesparamoorthy
Estela Fuentes	Jiselle Hanna	Marisol Salinas	Upali Ranasinghe
George Salloum	Jo Fettke	Nick Dmyterko	Victor Marillanca
George Sudull	Joe De Luca	Nick Nikolich	Werner Albrecht
George Zangalis	Karina Ceron	Nikola Nikolich	

## Women's Committee Members [1995 – 2015]

Agnes Polese	Fipe Nasome	Joelle Vandermensbrghe	Nasreen Hafesjee
Anthea Sidiropoulos	Gaby Hasler	Judith Ventic	Sevim Chapple
Badihe Mohebbi	Irena Grant	Karina Ceron	Tangi Steen
Blanca Llorente	Irena Stumbras	Marguerita Castro Carillo	Tracey Taripo
Brenda Degenhart	Irene Tavutavu	Maria Elena Chagoya	
Cristina Descalzi	Jaya Srinivas	Marie-Jo Barnes	
Daine Popovich	Jiselle Hanna	Marta Klonowski	

## Youth Committee Members [1995 – 2015]

Abraham Kon Alier	Ekaterina Loy	Kata Skratulja	Paul Xu Wang
Adam Lo	Gemo Virobo	Kenneth Kadirgamar	Paula Tsakisiris
Alphonse Tshitenga-Mulumba	Gurmeet Kaur	Kevin Kadirgamar	Peter Chiodo
Anthony Colombo	Helen Ho Ying Fung	Martin de Weerd	Sarah Lio-Willie
April Adams	Hui Lin Tan	Michael Siriotis	Sinéad Lee
Curtis Ho	Jagdeep Shergill	Milijana Vojnovic	Stefani Eres
Danijela Ivkovic	Jo Fettke	Naim Saifullah	Vida Carabuva
Edgar Mirantz Tan	Joseph Vuicakau	Neeru Khapangi	Yalcin Adal
	Josnnr Fettke	Nikhil Wable	



# Image Credits

**Pages 2-3** - Australian Aboriginal art rock painting of Mimi spirits in the Anbangbang gallery at Nourlangie in Kakadu National Park. Dustin M. Ramsey, 2002. Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.5 via Commons: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anbangbang\\_gallery\\_Mimi\\_rock\\_art\\_cropped.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anbangbang_gallery_Mimi_rock_art_cropped.jpg)

**Page 4-5** - Three men standing on deck of the ship Liguria, enroute to Australia, 1951. Gift of Mrs Ilona Milotay in 2001. Mrs Milotay left Bremerhaven, Germany and arrived in Australia, via Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) after the ship in which she was a passenger, the Liguria, broke down in the Indian Ocean and was towed to Fremantle, Western Australia. Part of the Bonegilla & Migrant Hostels Project. URL: <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/122517>

**Page 6-7** - Joseph and Susan Malouf and family outside their shop and dwelling at 58 Lonsdale St., Melbourne, 1918. URL: <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/165035>

**Page 8-9** - 2XX presenters. URL: <http://www.2xxfm.org.au/content/support-2xx-fm>

**Page 10-11** - 3CR wall mural, Fitzroy 2010. URL: [www.3cr.org.au](http://www.3cr.org.au)

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**Page 20-21** - Malaysian Colombo Plan students celebrating Eid by performing the Candle Dance, Canberra 1959. Source: National Archives of Australia

**Page 22-23** - 3CR wall painting created by Tom Civil, Fitzroy 2010. Source: [http://tomcivil.com/?page\\_id=38](http://tomcivil.com/?page_id=38)

**Page 24-25** - Harvest of Endurance scroll: A History of the Chinese in Australia, 1788-1988. Artist: Mo Xiangyi, assisted by Wang Jingwen, researcher: Mo Yimei. Ink on paper, mounted on silk and paper. © Australia–China Friendship Society. Photography: Matt Kelso, National Museum of Australia. URL: [http://www.nma.gov.au/collections/collection\\_interactives/endurance\\_scroll/harvest\\_of\\_endurance\\_html\\_version/explore\\_the\\_scroll/colombo\\_plan](http://www.nma.gov.au/collections/collection_interactives/endurance_scroll/harvest_of_endurance_html_version/explore_the_scroll/colombo_plan)

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