

**CBAA conference**

MELBOURNE: The ABA was strongly represented at this year's Community Broadcasting Conference, *Our Vision Our Voice*, held in Melbourne from 23-26 November. The Minister for Communications and the Arts, the Hon. Michael Lee addressed the conference on 24 November and announced that the Communications Law Centre will undertake an assessment of how community television has used the sixth



Bob Scott, ABA deputy chairman, at the CBAA conference

channel since it was made available on a continuing trial basis in April 1994. The assessment will form part of the process of considering the future of the sixth television channel.

Peter Webb, ABA Chairman, outlined the current situation with the ABA's planning and allocations processes and the likely impact on timing of the legislative amendments (since passed by Parliament) regarding the licensing of second radio licences in solus commercial radio markets. Mr Webb also announced that the last impediment to the registration of the community radio codes of practice by the ABA had now been removed following the in principle agreement to the code at the National Indigenous Media Association of Australia (NIMA) conference in November (see report on the NIMA conference for more detail).

ABA Deputy Chairman Bob Scott, General Manager Policy and Programs Gareth Grainger, Director Planning Giles Tanner, Manager Allocations and Renewals John Souter, Director Engineering Bob Greeney and Manager Services Planning Mike Salloom all participated in the conference sessions. They were also available

to answer queries by community licensees and aspirants about technical, planning and allocations matters.

Aspirant community radio broadcasters were well represented at the conference as were community television groups for whom access to cable delivery was an issue of particular concern.

Achievements awards were presented to participants in the community broadcasting industry at the conference dinner.

On 26 November, representatives of the ABA and the Spectrum Management Agency fielded questions from a large audience about various aspects of the planning and allocation processes.

SPAA conference

MELBOURNE: The Screen Producers Association of Australia (SPAA) held their annual conference in Melbourne on 8 - 10 November.

The format of the conference was a series of seminars, with a small trade exhibition and, reportedly, an informal but active 'market'.

The keynote address was given by Sir David Puttnam, who reflected on the changing role of the producer in the information age. He argued that the biggest challenge facing producers outside Hollywood was not so much possessing the creativity and skill to produce compelling entertainment, but being committed to building a genuinely thriving and sustainable audio-visual industry independent of Hollywood. From a European perspective that was an enormous challenge, but one which he felt Australia had taken some first confident steps towards achieving.

The future of public broadcasting in a multi channel environment was also a dominant theme, with strong arguments being put by Australian and international speakers for the continuing role of broadcasters like the ABC, SBS and the BBC in promoting diversity and innovation in broadcasting services.

The views of the Government and the Opposition were represented in addresses by the Minister for Communications and the Arts, the Hon. Michael Lee and the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. John Howard. The Government pointed to its continuing support for the film and television industry and recent initiatives such as Creative Nation. The Opposition also renewed its commitment to the development of the industry and identified



News Update

copyright reform as a pressing issue to be dealt with if it wins government at the next election.

The Minister also indicated that he would support a Democrat moved amendment to the Broadcasting Services Act that would see a wide review of Australian content on pay TV, beyond the current drama expenditure requirement. The Senate has since passed this amendment and the review is to be conducted before 1 July 1997.

ABA officers attended the conference and conducted face to face sessions for interested delegates on the pay TV drama guidelines and the findings of its research into children and television.



NIMA conference

CANBERRA: Planning for more broadcasting services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and streamlining the processes for allocation of new licences were the main areas of interest when the ABA attended the National Indigenous Media Association of Australia's Annual General Meeting, in Canberra in November.

Representatives from the Codes and Conditions, Licensing and Planning sections of the ABA attended the AGM on 13 and 14 November, which provided an opportunity to discuss various issues impacting on the indigenous media sector.

The ABA presented a session on the implementation of the community radio codes of practice by the Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS) stations which provide broadcasting services for remote Aboriginal communities. Delegates resolved to support the codes in principle.

A working group was set up to do further work on the plain English version of the codes which had been developed by NIMA for BRACS use. The group has the flexibility to do further work on the BRACS version which might be needed to meet the special needs of BRACS services.

The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session. Topics included in the presentation were the BRACS, community radio and television, open narrowcasting, temporary transmissions and codes and conditions

Valuable contact was made with a number of media associations such as Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association and Broome Aboriginal Media Association and aspirant broadcasters discussed the television and radio planning process direct with ABA officers.

Other speakers included representatives from the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, Australian Performing Rights Association and the Australian Film Commission. ☐

Programs granted C classification

Programs granted C or P classification between 7 November and 22 November 1995. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Josie Tomas on (02) 334 7840.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Class.</i>	<i>New/Renewal</i>	<i>Decision date</i>	<i>Applicant</i>
SPELLBINDER 2	Australia/China/Poland	PRC	new	14.11.1995	Film Australia Ltd

PRC - Provisional C