



News Update

Communications Research Forum—conference report

Representatives from the ABA recently participated in the Communications Research Forum held in Canberra on 24–25 September 1998. ABA staff made presentations and contributed to roundtable discussions on a range of broadcasting and online issues. The Forum was organised by the Communications Research Unit (CRU) of the Department of Communications and the Arts with assistance from the Faculty of Communications at the University of Canberra.

Giles Tanner, General Manager—*Digital Broadcasting*

Rosalie O’Neale, Assistant Manager of Codes and Conditions—*Freedom of Expression and Community Standards in the Online World (A Regulator’s Perspective)*

Margaret Cupitt, Senior Researcher and Stephen Atkins, Manager of Codes and Conditions—*Monitoring Community Standards about Television Content: 1994–97*

Gillian Ramsay, Senior Researcher—*Youth, Music and the Media*

Ms Kaaren Koomen, Online Manager facilitated the Online Research Round Table.

The ABA also co-sponsored the Award for Best Student Research Paper with the Centre for Telecommunications Information Networking. Josephine Previte, of the

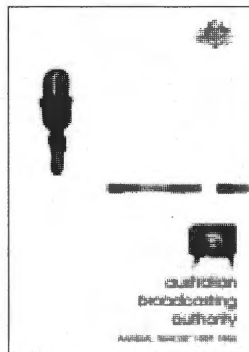
Communications Centre at the Queensland University of Technology was awarded the \$1000 prize for her paper, *Internet Advertising: An Assessment of Consumer Attitudes to Advertising on the Internet*.

Investigations into program matters

There were 84 breaches of codes of practice or licence conditions by broadcasters in 1997–98, according to the ABA’s Annual Report. Of the 84 breaches, 59 related to codes of practice, 24 were breaches of licence conditions, and one a breach of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

There were 35 more breaches found in 1997–98 than in the previous reporting period. ‘The increase partly reflects a more vigorous compliance regime practised by the ABA but

Copies of ABA papers are available from Lori Lemon, Research Assistant, tel. (02) 9334 7862, email: lori.lemon@aba.gov.au and are also on the ABA web site, <aba.gov.au>.



Copies of the *Annual Report 1997–98* are available free from the ABA, tel. (02) 9334 7700. The report is also on the ABA web site, <www.aba.gov.au>.

Programs granted C or P classification

Programs granted C or P classification between 4 September 1998 and 6 October 1998. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact Liz Gilchrist, Manager, ABA Children’s Television.

Program title	Origin	Class.	New/renewal	Decision date	Applicant
SKIPPY – ADVENTURES IN BUSHTOWN: episodes 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26	Australia	CAD	new	4–9–98	Yoram Gross – Village Roadshow Pty Ltd
SKIPPY – ADVENTURES IN BUSHTOWN: episodes 1, 4, 7, 8, 15	Australia	CAD	new	5–9–98	Yoram Gross – Village Roadshow Pty Ltd
SKIPPY – ADVENTURES IN BUSHTOWN: episode 14	Australia	CAD	new	30–9–98	Yoram Gross – Village Roadshow Pty Ltd
Y?	Australia	C	new	5–9–98	Southern Star Entertainment Pty Ltd
IN THE BOX	Australia	P	new	5–9–98	Network Ten Pty Ltd
KETCHUP (SERIES 3)	Australia	CAD	new	18–9–98	Southern Star Entertainment Pty Ltd
JIM’S GIFT	UK	C	new	22–9–98	Channel 9 South Australia Pty Ltd
WITCH’S DAUGHTER; THE	Scotland	C	new	6–10–98	Channel 9 South Australia Pty Ltd
JIRIMPIMBIRA, AN AFRICAN FOLK TALE	USA	C	new	6–10–98	Channel 9 South Australia Pty Ltd
PRINCE OF THE NILE –					
THE STORY OF MOSES	Australia	CAD	new	6–10–98	Burbank Animation Studios Pty Ltd
SMOKESCREEN	UK	C	new	6–10–98	Channel 9 South Australia Pty Ltd

C – children’s program, CAD – C Australian drama, P – preschool, PRC – provisional C