



## Personal impressions: broadcasting in East Timor

Patricia Sharpe, of the ABA's Standards section, recently travelled to East Timor. These are her impressions of broadcasting in the area.

The big news event on East Timor's fledgling national television network during September was, yes you guessed it, the Olympics.

I had travelled to East Timor in the week leading up to the Olympics thinking I was going to miss all the action but found that the country was getting fantastic television coverage courtesy of live satellite feeds from Network Seven and New Zealand television. As part of its mandate in East Timor, the UN is re-establishing the country's national television and radio networks and developing new broadcasting regulation. The UN plans to have the networks and regulation in place for the lead up to East Timor's national elections to be held in late 2001.

Before the Olympics the UN television

station was broadcasting primarily BBC programming, interspersed with approximately one hour a day local programming. This local programming comprised news and current affairs and light entertainment stories filed by local East Timorese reporters. The station's broadcast signal is only transmitted within the Dili area, but each broadcast is taped and sent out by truck to villages and major towns where it is replayed to audiences that can number in the thousands.

While in East Timor I spoke to Ric Curnow, Head of the TV Unit, about the future of the station and the UN's role in the development of the network. He explained that the UN is providing broadcasting infrastructure, as well as journalist and operations training to local East Timorese staff. He added that UN resources are finite with access to training and all important program material hard to come by.

'We have a number of training placements with international broadcasters but we are

Ric Curnow, Head of the TV Unit in East Timor, conferring with a colleague



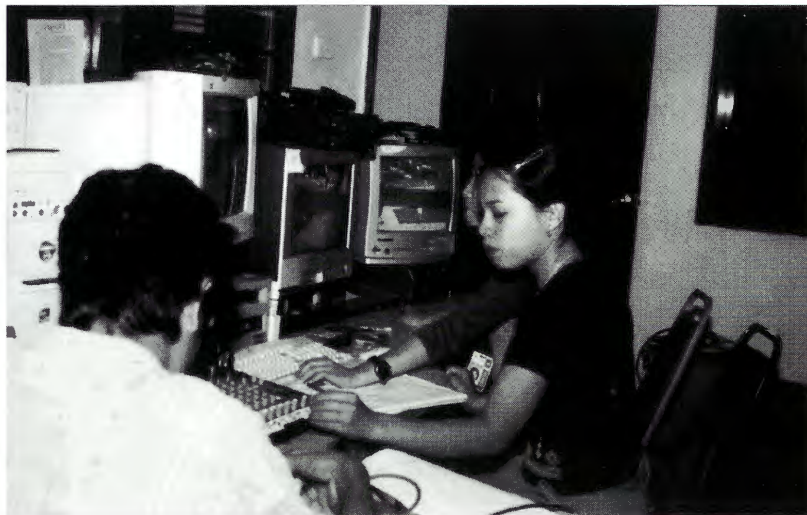
## Temporary community broadcasting licences

Allocated in September 2000

Licence area	Licensee	Frequency	Period	Date allocated
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Monaro	High Country Community Media Assoc. Inc.	90.5, 93.3, & 93.9	16-9-2000 to 31-7-2001	11-9-2000
Monaro	Monaro Community Radio Inc.	90.5, 93.3	16-9-2000 to 31-7-2001	11-9-2000
Sydney	Chinese Community Service Broadcasting Inc.	94.5	2-10-2000 to 29-10-2000	14-9-2000
<b>Victoria</b>				
Horsham	Horsham & District Community FM Radio Inc.	96.5	30-9-2000 to 29-9-2001	29-9-2000
Melbourne	Student Youth Network Inc.	94.9	18-9-2000 to 22-10-2000	14-9-2000
Melbourne	Joy Melbourne Independent Community Broadcasters Inc.	90.7	1-10-2000 to 27-2-2001	14-9-2000
Melbourne	The Victorian Muslim Community Information Service Inc.	90.7	1-10-2000 to 27-2-2001	14-9-2000
Sunbury	3NRG Inc.	99.3	1-10-2000 to 31-12-2000	13-9-2000
<b>Queensland</b>				
Beaudesert	Beaudesert Community Radio Group Inc.	88.9	1-10-2000 to 30-9-2001	13-9-2000
Brisbane	Greater Brisbane Radio Broadcasters Inc.	97.3	16-9-2000 to 10-11-2000	11-9-2000
Gold Coast	Christian Air Broadcasters Ltd	95.7	1-10-2000 to 31-5-2001	12-9-2000
Gold Coast	Gold Coast Community Broadcasters Ltd	102.9	1-10-2000 to 31-5-2001	12-9-2000
Gold Coast	Hott FM Ltd	94.9	1-10-2000 to 30-11-2000	12-9-2000
Gold Coast	Radio Hope Island Ltd	94.1	1-10-2000 to 31-5-2001	14-9-2000
Nambour	SDA Radio Association Inc	91.1	1-10-2000 to 31-5-2001	13-9-2000
<b>South Australia</b>				
Port Pirie	Pirie Community Radio Broadcasters Inc.	105.9	2-10-2000 to 1-10-2001	15-9-2000
Victor Harbor	Great Southern FM Community Broadcasters Assoc. Inc.	99.9	1-10-2000 to 15-7-2001	12-9-2000
Yorke Peninsula	Peninsula Community Broadcasters Inc.	90.3	1-10-2000 to 30-6-2001	11-9-2000



# News Update



Preparing to broadcast at the TV Unit in East Timor

keen to develop links with broadcasters in the region to start a two way flow of experience and staff.'

Programming will continue to be a problem for the new station until an East Timorese production industry develops. The TV Unit is trying to negotiate local rights for overseas programming but finding this problematic as many of the program rights for the region are held by many different broadcasters. Mr Curnow is also talking to Australian program makers and rights holders.

He said, 'Australian broadcasters might want to consider negotiating program rights for "Australia and East Timor" as this will cost them nothing extra and make it possible to immediately offer the programs to diversity-starved East Timorese'.

The national radio station is in the same building as the television unit and provides local and international news, current affairs and information programs in English, Indonesian, Portuguese and the local East Timorese language, Tetun. The radio station currently transmits on an FM frequency in Dili with a simulcast on AM which extends their broadcast area to a number of outlying towns. A major task for the UN is the repair of the dozen or so radio transmitter sites across the country, destroyed during the militia violence in 1999. These repairs will allow the installation of a satellite link as well as terrestrial transmitter facilities and with the completion of this work by the end of November 2000, the rest of East Timor will be able to receive the national radio broadcasts. The UN is yet to decide whether to use a terrestrial or satellite distribution system to broadcast the national television signal to the rest of the country.

## C and P programs

*Programs granted C and P classification between 27 September and 7 November 2000. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7700.*

<b>Program title</b>	<b>Origin</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>New/renewal</b>	<b>Decision date</b>	<b>Applicant:</b>
BIG ARVO; THE	Australia	C	new	23-10-00	Seven Network Ltd
CHUCK FINN (SERIES 3 & 4)	Australia	CD	new	27-10-00	Barron Television Entertainment
CRASH ZONE (SERIES 2)	Australia	CD	new	24-10-00	Australian Children's Television Foundation
EASTER IN BUNNYLAND	Australia	CD	new	20-10-00	Burbank Animation Studios Pty Ltd
ESCAPE OF THE ARTFUL DODGER	Australia	PRC	new	4-10-00	Grundy Television Pty Ltd
GLORIA'S HOUSE (SERIES 1, episodes 1 & 2)	Australia	CD	new	2-11-00	Energie Entertainment
JOSEPH & THE COAT OF MANY COLOURS	Australia	CD	new	11-10-00	Burbank Animation Studios Pty Ltd
KICKSTART	Australia	PRC	new	10-10-00	Mr Dean Pomfret
LI'L HORRORS (SERIES 5)	Australia	CD	new	11-10-00	December Films Australia Pty Ltd
RICKY ROCKET	Australia	PRC	new	24-10-00	Knight Animations
YOUR BIG BREAK	Australia	C	new	3-10-00	Southern Star Concept [Southern Star Entertainment]

**C — children's program, CD — C drama, P — preschool, PRC — provisional C, Class: classification**