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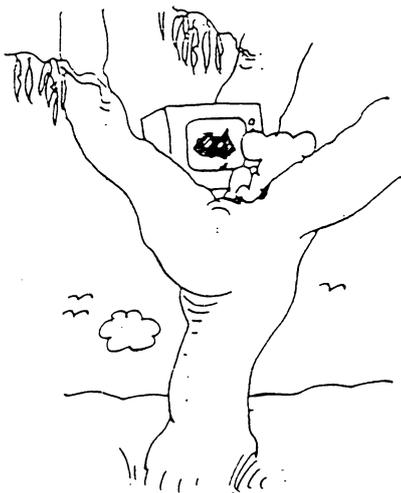
The top four genres of Australian program for predominantly commercial viewers were serials/soaps, current affairs, comedy and infotainment. Predominantly ABC/SBS viewers rated serials and current affairs almost equally and put documentaries ahead of infotainment and comedy.

The highest proportion of those who preferred Australian films and serials to their American counterparts did so because they felt that Australian productions were 'more down to earth/realistic'.

While the results of these two studies are encouraging, they could also provide ammunition for opponents of Australian content regulation. The fact that the networks are easily meeting TPS 14 requirements, along with demonstrable viewer support for Australian programs, could be used to support arguments that regulation - even self-regulation - is no longer required.

Nevertheless, the information they contain makes them an essential addition to any library of broadcasting resources.

A word of praise is also due for the regulator's monthly newsletter *ABA Update*. This is no dry record of facts and statistics, but now contains much useful material in the form of reprinted papers by the Chairman and others, and articles on important developments such as digital technology. Great value at \$36.00 for 12 issues. □



Policy File

..... A Monthly Round-Up of Press Releases, Reports, Publications and Conferences

Media Releases

Australian Broadcasting Authority

ABA to Meet With the People of Griffith and the MIA/Darwin 3/11/93
ABA to Meet With the People of Mildura/ the Riverland Area 9 and 10/11/93
Refers Pay TV Licence B to TPC 18/11/93
ABA To Visit Central and South West Western Australia 23/11/93

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Statement by the Managing Director David Hill [*on his remarks about an Australian republic*] 3/11/93
New Directions for 7.30 Report [*Victoria*] 5/11/93
ABC's Middle East Bureau [moves from Nicosia to Jerusalem] 5/11/93
Triennial Funding for the ABC 11/11/93

Australian Film Commission

The Economics of Film and Television in Australia 18/11/93

Minister for Communications (Beddall)

Mainstream Radio Access for Print Handicapped 4/11/93
[*Telecom's Announcement on its FMO*] (Future Mode of Operations) Will Accelerate Industry Growth 11/11/93
Pay Television Update [*Australis Media will acquire 100% of New World Telecommunications, successful tenderer for Licence B*] 18/11/93
Monday Deadline for Pay Television Bid 24/11/93

Optus

Optus Long Distance Celebrates First Birthday 15/11/93
Optus Breaks New Ground with New Mobile Phone Features, Incentives 15/11/93
Tasmania to Get Optus Choice for Long Distance Calls 25/11/93

Telecom

Free Call Service Offered to Families by Telecom 3/11/93
Telecom Break through to Give Customers Echo-free International Calls 8/11/93
Telecom Reduces International Switched Digital Charges 15/11/93
Telecom Launches Interactive Services in Asia via Australia Television 18/11/93
Telecom's New International Network Centre to Enhance Customer Service 30/11/93

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Conferences, Seminars

January 1994

23-28: Curtin University, Australian Interactive Multimedia Association and WA Department of Commerce and Trade, *2nd International Interactive Multimedia Symposium*, Burswood Convention Centre Perth. With many overseas and local speakers and an accompanying exhibition. Cost: from \$150 a day to \$700 for three days, concessions for early registration, students etc. Contact: Promaco Conventions (09) 364 8311 fax (09) 316 1453.

February

21-22: IIR Conferences, *Cabling '94: Future Directions in Cabling*, Intercontinental Hotel Sydney. Local and international cabling experts. Topics include examination of future Australian cabling standards, ensuring confidentiality and safety of information. Plus additional one-day workshop on fibre optics. Cost: \$1395 two days, \$1895 three (\$795 workshop). Contact: (02) 954 5844, fax 959 4684.

22-24: IIR Conferences, *Multimedia Asia Summit '94*, Kowloon Shangri La Hotel, Hong Kong. Over 30 participating organisations from the region as well as the United States; topics to include mass market use of MM products and services; merging sound, video and text; applications in business, education and entertainment. \$US1895. Contact: (HK) phone 852 549 5618 or fax 852 547 3836.

24-25: AIC Conferences, *Strategic Business Applications of Smart Cards*, Sheraton Wentworth Sydney. Will cover range of uses including phone systems. Cost: \$1395. Contact: (02) 210 5777 fax (02) 221 7773.

28-March 1-2: AIC Conferences, *Cabling Management and Reform*, Hyatt Sydney. Six international speakers and four technology user case studies. Topics include the impact of AUSTEL's new licensing regulations on category 5 cabling; cabling for ATM and CDDI. One day hands-on workshop on testing systems and components. Cost: \$1395 two days, \$1795 three (\$595 workshop). Contact: as above.

March

2-4 (Canberra), 7-9 (Sydney), 10-11 (Brisbane): IIR Conferences, *Understanding the Telecommunications Revolution*, various venues. Topics: voice communications; data communications; emerging technologies. Presented by Lillian Goleniewski and Ray Horak of the LILO Organisation (USA). Range of costs from \$795 to \$1795 according to number of days. Further information: (02) 954 5844, fax 959 4684.

3-4: AIC Conferences, *Pay TV*, Ritz Carlton Double Bay Sydney. Topics to include: global potential, Australia's position in pan-Asian pay TV market, new directions in legislation, technological developments, interactivity,

manufacturing opportunities. Cost: \$1395. Contact: as above.

21-22: IIR Conferences, *LAN-WAN '94*, Intercontinental Sydney. Latest developments in networking technologies and implementation strategies, with six international specialists from US, Israel and local experts. Plus optional day on strategies for network management (\$795). Cost: \$1395 two days, \$1895 three. Contact as above.

21-23: IIR Conferences, *Mobiles '94*, Hyatt Sydney. Topics: GSM networks and services; future mobility in personal communications; CDMA - latest evolution of digital technology. Cost: from \$795 to \$1895 according to number of days. Contact as above.

July 6-8: Institute for Cultural Policy Studies and Centre for Multimedia Research and Development, Griffith Uni, *Media Futures: Policy and Performance*, ANA Hotel Gold Coast Qld. Topics to include new technologies and media developments, programming and cultural identity, public community and narrowcast media. Advance registration (before 30 April) \$350. Contact: Conference Coordinator, ICPS Faculty of Humanities, Griffith Uni Q 4111 fax 07 875 5511 phone 07 875 77772.

Publications

Australian Centre for Independent Journalism, *Annual Report 1992*, ACIJ UTS Sydney 1993, 33pp plus attachments. Includes reports on projects like reporting cultural diversity, the front page and beyond, also on results from investigative projects fund, and a note from press fellow in residence Brian Toohey.

1993 Australian Press Council Conference Papers # 1, *Privacy and the Press*, APC Sydney 1993, 26pp paperback. Record of a conference held at Melbourne University City Premises 16 June 1993. Speakers: David Flint, Paul Chadwick, Alan Kohler. Available from the APC phone (02) 267 6826 fax (02) 261 1930.

1993 Australian Press Council Conference Papers # 2, *The Constitution and Freedom of Speech*, APC Sydney 1993, 26pp paperback. Record of a conference held at Corowa Court House 29 July 1993. Speakers: David Flint, Michael Coper, Robert Pullan and Peter Costigan. Details as above.

Australian Press Council, *Annual Report No 17*, 30 June 1993, 192pp. Includes complaints statistics and adjudications details as well as complaints not adjudicated. APC contact details as above.

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AUSTEL, Wireless Personal Communications Services, AUSTEL's final report to the Minister on issues surrounding wireless personal communications. Released 10 December, 1993. Cost \$30, 107 pages, from AUSTEL, PO Box 7443, St Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC, 3004.

Simon Molloy and Barry Burgan, **The Economics of Film and Television in Australia**, South Australian Centre for Economic Studies for the Australian Film Commission, 1993, 133pp, paperback. Cost: \$40.00 incl p&p or \$45.00 airmailed overseas from AFC Publications, GPO Box 3984 Sydney 2001 or fax (02) 959 5403, phone (02)951 6444 or 008 22 66 15.

International Business Communications P/L, **Australian Media Law Reporter**, \$265.00 for a year (10 issues) from IBC, 55-63 Elizabeth St Sydney 2000; fax (02) 221 5923 phone (02) 221 6199. Aims to be a regular defamation case reporter and 'a forum for discussing a whole range of other media law issues' including contempt, confidential information, privilege, privacy, copyright, suppression orders.

Women in Film and Television NSW, **National SWIFT Directory 1994**, WIFT 1993, \$20 non-members from PO Box 868 Rozelle NSW 2039 (02) 962 4533. Lists nearly 1,000 women in every area of production of film, video and TV. Assisted by the Women's Program of the AFC.

Inquiries, Public Consultations

Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings, **Inquiry into Arrangements Relating to the Televising and Radio Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings**. Issues to be covered include the televising of each House and its committees and joint committees, general principles (like use of videotape excerpts), and the establishment of a permanent Australia-wide parliamentary broadcast network. Submissions invited by 18 February 1994. Contact: David Elder, Secretary to the Committee, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600. Phone (06) 277 4888 fax 906 277 4204.

Communications Update

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It is produced by the **Communications Law Centre** on behalf of the Media and Communications Council (MACC) whose members include consumers and community organisations and media and communications unions.

Ideas, media releases and feedback are welcome. Send to: Communications Law Centre, The White House, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033, Australia. Telephone (02) 663-0551 Fax (02) 662-6839.

The **Communications Law Centre** operates under a broad charter to work on legal and policy issues relating to various aspects of communications including: the mass media, advertising, media technologies, telecommunications, film and entertainment, privacy protection, electronic data and information services.

Its work includes advocacy, legal advice and litigation; research and consultancies; teaching, conducting seminars and publishing occasional papers.

The **Communications Law Centre** operates with financial assistance from the Law Foundation of New South Wales, the Australian Film Commission, AOTC and the Hartley Trust (administered by the ANZ Trustees, Melb). The Centre is affiliated with the University of New South Wales.