2015 National Features & Documentary Series

Rundowns

Welcome to the 2015 CBAA National Features & Documentary Series, a showcase of work by new and emerging Australian community radio producers.



Ten participants were chosen in early 2015, based on their original ideas for a feature, then trained and mentored by the Community Media Training Organisation to bring their work to fruition.

The ten finished pieces showcase a diverse range of stories, from feats of individual tenacity to unique examinations of Australian society of the past and present.

Australian Radio Pioneer Wound Up the Cat and put the Clock Out (2NSB)

You may listen to your favourite radio programs on a radio receiver, streaming on a tablet, or perhaps through an app on your mobile phone, but what may be hard to believe, is that around one hundred years ago, radio broadcasting didn’t exist. Producer Jane Arakawa takes us back to that time, to reveal the passion of one of Australia’s radio pioneers, Charles Maclurcan.

Cathedral of a Thousand Stars (Radio Adelaide)

The desert seems like an unlikely place for things to grow… but they do – you just have to look a little bit harder to find them. Rising from the red sands of the South Australian outback is the ‘Cathedral of a Thousand Stars’, an open-air church run by Julia Warren, an Aboriginal woman. Her church is more than just a place for song and worship. It represents spiritual diversity and blended cultures. And for generations past, it’s a place of healing. Radio Adelaide’s Lisa Burns shares the stories of two Aboriginal women separated by time but united by place. Together, their stories highlight the diversity of faith in Australia.

Cracked Open (Edge Radio 99.3FM)

Tasmania is all about the local - local produce, local businesses and local community. In a country where more and more people are cramming into cities and apartment blocks… and onto buses and trains, Tasmania is a bit like the free range state. And it has tried to be, literally. In recent years the Tasmanian Government has made repeated attempts to ban cage eggs in an effort to become Australia’s first cage-free state… but each time the plans have failed amid concerns from local producers about competition from the mainland. With its ‘clean and green’ image… its farm fresh market scene… and its history of local community opposition… if any state was going to lead the way in closing down the battery sheds, there’s a good chance it would be Tasmania. So why isn’t that happening? Producer Britta Jorgensen from Edge Radio 99.3Fm in Hobart cracks open this story.

Fairlight: How Australia Changed The Sound Of Music (ArtSound FM)

This is the story of how two computer nerds in a Sydney basement in the 1970s created a machine that made sounds and effects that no one had ever heard before. They created sampling, and it’s fair to say that there was music before the Fairlight and a different music after the Fairlight. Join Paul Conn to discover how they actually changed the sound of music.

From Kabul to Kafka (4ZZZ)

There's a lot of commentary on immigration and border protection in Australia, and yet the operation of the system, its implementation, is often overlooked. How does the government decide who'll be released into the community and who'll stay in detention centres? And what happens if you ARE released into the community in Australia? What does life look like then? 4ZZZ's Anna Carlson takes on these questions and more in a documentary called Kabul to Kafka: Inside Australia’s Community Detention Program.  In it, she asks what life in Australia is really like for the 857 children and teenagers who find themselves growing up alone in a whole new world.

I the Many, We the One (Radio Adelaide)

The idea of having more than one personality is intriguing, controversial, and usually misunderstood. Most people who discover this about themselves keep it hidden, as the costs of revealing it can be high. From the studios of Radio Adelaide, Sue Reece opens doors into the lived experiences of five very different people, all living with more than one self, all inviting us to share this very personal aspect of themselves. To safe-guard identities, three of the stories are voiced by actors - but no words have been changed. Each story remains exactly as described. Please be advised that the content contains some descriptions of mental illness, the effects of abuse, and references to suicide, which some listeners may find distressing.

It's the Satanic Verses, Love (Vision Australia Radio)

Ruth Mercer lost her sight 20 years ago. This feature, from Stella Glorie, is about a book group Ruth belongs to with 14 other self-described ‘feisty’ women who age from 63 to 93. All of them are either blind or have low vision and thanks to technology and audio books and they have found each and are committed to this book group that has been going for 15 years.

Red Dirt in Bondi: The Story of Building Bridges (3MDR)

Producer Meeghan Bell transports us back to Bondi, Sydney in 1988. It was the year of the Bicentenary, and a group calling themselves the Building Bridges Association, wanted a different kind of celebration – one that would hopefully move Australia towards reconciliation. The Australian music industry and community radio helped this ambitious group put together two stunning rock concerts and a double album in the name of building bridges between black and white Australia. Soaked in inspirational tunes, this feature asks, as the Building Bridges Association did nearly three decades ago, what kind of Australia do we want to call home?

Relation/Expectation (PBS 106.7 FM)

It’s a specific click, a spark, a ton of dopamine, sound waves crashing at a 528 frequency. It’s love and the social bond of a relationship that we form from it. But with increased intimacy comes increased expectations that often distort our freedom to love. Producer Jess Fairfax knows this all too well but believes that underneath our futile suffering lies much more. So she has gathered together some friends to delve deep into where these expectations come from and how we might go about living without them. Accompanied by the words and ponderings of these interviewees are personal narratives and poetic pieces they have written in response to a soundscape Jess created and fed to them as a sonic stimulus. She has aimed to draw out the emotions and intimate moments shared in these conversations through her own original composition and sound design. She hopes that the conversations and realisations she had throughout the process will carry on into your own homes and hearts, so we can all live a little lighter and find freedom within love.

Stand Up Ladies (Triple R)

Standing up in front of a room full of strangers and trying to make them laugh sounds like a daunting task to most people. Now imagine being one of the relatively small handful of women trying to do just that, in a field still dominated by men. Producer Hannah Reich followed her friend Tash Rubinstein on a journey through Melbourne’s open mic stand up comedy scene – and witnessed the highs, the lows and the laughs of just being a woman and standing up. Warning: contains some strong language (muted for broadcast).

More information

The National Features & Documentary Series was made with the financial assistance of the Community Broadcasting Foundation.

For more information, contact CRN staff at the CBAA on 02 9310 2999, email crn@cbaa.org.au or visit <http://www.cbaa.org.au>.

Information for Broadcasters

These features will be available as a single file in either MP3 or WAV format.

We have also created files with a pre-recorded intro and outro, also in MP3 or WAV format, for your convenience.

Please note that uncensored versions are available for the following features upon request:

* Stand Up Ladies
* Relation/Expectation

Please follow the following link to retrieve these files:
<https://app.box.com/files/0/f/4806892329/2015_content>