

= NBN Television =

NBN Television , ( commonly known as NBN ) is an Australian television station based in Newcastle , Australia . The station was inaugurated on 4 March 1962 as the first regional commercial television station in New South Wales , and has since expanded to 39 transmitters throughout the northern half of New South Wales and parts of South East Queensland , including Tamworth , Tweed Heads , Lismore , Coffs Harbour , Hunter Region , Central Coast and the Gold Coast . It is owned by the Nine Network , with its schedule closely following those of metropolitan counterparts TCN in Sydney and QTQ in Brisbane .

The station callsign , NBN , is an acronym for Newcastle Broadcasting New South Wales . NBN is the only regional station in Australia to produce a one @-@ hour news bulletin seven days a week . Since 2007 , it has been owned by Nine 's parent company Nine Entertainment Co . ( formerly PBL Media ) , making it a sister station to its metropolitan counterparts . Prior to 1 July 2016 , NBN operated as an independent regional station , and not as part of the main network .

= = History = =

= = = Origins = = =

NBN 's original owner , the Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation ( NBTC ) was founded in May 1958 to begin preparations for the upcoming television licence allocations . The main shareholders in NBTC were United Broadcasting Company ( owned by the Lamb family , owners of radio station 2KO ) , Airsales Broadcasting Company ( owners of local radio station 2HD ) , and the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate ( to be bought out by John Fairfax and Sons Ltd . ) . In accordance with the Australian Broadcasting Control Board regulations , at least 50 % of the company had to be locally owned . 750 @,@ 000 shares were made available by the NBTC ( at 10 shillings , equivalent to A \$ 1 each ) . Approximately 2000 people bought shares .

The Australian Broadcasting Control Board awarded the commercial television licence for the Newcastle and Hunter Valley area to the NBTC on 1 August 1961 . NBN @-@ 3 would transmit on VHF channel 3 , from a transmitter atop Mount Sugarloaf near Newcastle . Council approval for the transmitter was issued on 17 July that year .

The call @-@ letters , NBN , were derived from the company 's name , Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation , with the second N representing New South Wales , as required by law . Unofficially , it stood for Newcastle Broadcasting Network .

Construction began in November 1961 , supervised by engineers from RCA in the United States . It was a step backwards for RCA , building a new station transmitting in black and white while colour television was fast becoming the norm in the United States . Ninety per cent of the original equipment was imported from the United States , and held in bond until they were due to be installed . Equipment was purchased with colour production and transmission in mind , so that only 20 % modification would be required when colour came to NBN . Studios were to be built on a 3 @-@ acre ( 1 @.@ 2 ha ) block at Mosbri Crescent , near the city centre .

Work on the 142 m ( 466 ft ) transmitter was delayed by a combination of weather , the conditions for the road leading to Mount Sugarloaf , and excited sightseers blocking work trucks during the weekends . During that time , the technical team stayed at the top of the mountain . The construction took 8 months at a cost of A \$ 1 @.@ 5 million , and required staff to work seven days a week ( except on Christmas Day ) to make the deadline .

Test transmissions took place in early 1962 , and could be seen as far away as Muswellbrook , Avalon , Katoomba , Lithgow , Gloucester and around Port Kembla .

= = = = Opening night = = = =

NBN Television commenced transmission on 4 March 1962 . The first programme on launch night

began at 6pm , a taped welcome by the then @-@ Postmaster General Charles Davidson . Following that was a guided tour around the NBN studios by the original production manager , Matthew Tapp .

Murray Finlay began one of the longest newsreading careers in Australia with NBN 's first news bulletin at 6.30pm. This was followed by The Phil Silvers Show at 7pm , and the 1937 movie Green Light starring Errol Flynn at 7 @. @ 30 ; the George Sanders Theatre series followed at 9pm , with opening episode , The Man in the Elevator , followed by the first episode from the Halls of Ivy , then the first Mystery Theatre program , The Missing Head at 10 pm . Anglican Bishop James Housden gave the first evening meditation at 10.30pm , marking the end of the first night of transmission for NBN @-@ 3 in Newcastle . Commercials on the first night included Rothmans Cigarettes , Streets Ice Cream , Ampol , Commonwealth Bank , Shell , and W.D. & H.O. Wills , amongst others .

In the lead @-@ up to the opening night , the station promised at least two movies a week , as well as men 's interest programs each Saturday afternoon between 3pm and 4pm ? a commitment successfully met , along with female @-@ targeted programming in the early afternoon , and children 's programming from 4.30pm to 6.30pm weekdays and mature programming thirty minutes before closedown each night . NBN Television broadcast fifty @-@ six hours in its first week of transmission , setting the Australian television record for the most time spent on air in a week for a new television station .

= = = 1960s to the 1970s = = =

Soon after launch night , NBN extended television coverage from Bungwahl to Broken Bay and as far west as Aberdeen . The station only operated eight hours per day , however several programs were produced locally including Home at Three , Let 's Cook With Gas , Tempo , Focus , as well as nightly news bulletins at 6.30pm.

In 1963 , Australian Consolidated Press and News Limited bought 200 @,@ 000 shares in the Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation . Shortly after , United Broadcasting Company sold its shares to Neatherley Investments Limited in Adelaide , and Australian United Investments in Melbourne , with each company purchasing 100 @,@ 000 shares . Time Enterprises , purchased Australian United Investments 's shares in November 1967 .

During the period between 1968 and 1969 , NBN secured a relay from the Postmaster @-@ General to enhance their news service . In 1970 , NBN began upgrading its studios in preparation for the commencement of colour television at a cost of A \$ 360 @,@ 000 . The improvements included an enlarged film department ; a film editing and cleaning equipment ; a larger master control with four video transfer machines ; a new telecine room with caption scanner and slide drums ; as well as an expansion of the administration and staff offices which also included new offices and a boardroom .

In 1972 , NBN was granted a licence to operate a translator in the Upper Hunter from Rossgole Lookout near Aberdeen , on VHF channel 10 . Concurrently in April 1972 , NBN expanded its nightly news service to one hour , becoming the first television station in Australia to have a one @-@ hour news bulletin . As a part of earlier preparations for colour production , between 1972 and 1973 , orders were placed with Rank Cintel and the EMI Group in the United Kingdom and Ampex in the United States for new colour equipment , in time for colour transmission tests on 7 October 1974 . On 1 March 1975 , the station began regular colour transmissions , whilst transmission was expanded to Banderra Downs , Merriwa , Mount Helen , and Murrurundi at a cost of A \$ 180 @,@ 000 . In 1978 , the Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation made a bid for local station ( and former owner ) 2HD , however was disallowed by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal . Also during the same year more extensions were added to the studios , which included a new car park , and was officially opened on 17 November 1978 .

On 22 November 1979 the Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation officially became NBN Limited , and the station itself renamed from Channel Three to NBN Television . By the late 1970s , NBN was producing twenty hours a week of local and networked programming from its studios , which in turn led the station to purchase a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter for news coverage

purposes .

== 1980s to the 1990s ==

In early 1980 , NBN purchased Southern Television Corporation Limited , owners of NWS @-@ 9 in Adelaide , for A \$ 19 million . During the same year , NBN began a teletext service and also purchased the free local newspaper , the Newcastle Star . In 1981 , Hadjoin Pty . Ltd . , a subsidiary of Parry 's Esplanade Limited ( later Parry Corporation ) , purchased 19 @.@ 88 % of NBN Limited for A \$ 6 @.@ 7 million .

Parry had then attempted to buy Michael Wansey 's stake in NBN , but was blocked by the Supreme Court of New South Wales . It was later revealed that the Lambs had opposed NBN 's purchase of the Star newspaper ( created and owned by Wansey ) and the attempt to buy 2HD . The company also faced possible suspension from the Australian Stock Exchange if a decision was not made soon . To resolve the tension , NBN sold NWS @-@ 9 to the Lambs in exchange for the majority stake in NBN in 1982 . With the buy @-@ out of community shares in NBN , the station ceased to be what Hunter residents considered to be " their own " . It came at a cost . Wansey mortgaged his shares to Parry who called in the debt .

On 16 March 1983 , Hadjoin finally completed the purchase of NBN , officially delisting the company . It had cost Parry A \$ 6 @.@ 76 per share to acquire 1 @,@ 285 @,@ 289 shares . Michael Wansey resigned from the board at the end of the year as a result . In 1984 , plans for a second independent station in Newcastle had failed . During that time , NBN and ABC Newcastle were asked to leave the VHF band to accommodate FM radio . NBN would have been on UHF channel 51 , and ABC on UHF channel 48 , however this did not eventuate . A proposal to launch a radiated subscription television service with community broadcasting during the daytime hours had also failed that year .

In the late 1980s , NBN 's Perth @-@ based owner , Parry Corporation , spun off NBN Limited into a new company , NBN Enterprises , and took a 40 % stake in the new company , with Security Pacific Capital Corporation buying 60 % . Parry sold their stake soon after , holding onto Papua New Guinea television station NTN , which NBN had helped to set up . Fulcrum Media 's move to later purchase the station was a source for confusion , as it was revealed that many companies , including the NSW State Superannuation Board and Westpac Banking Corporation , held substantial stakes in Fulcrum Media . Parry Corp 's new owner CityWest issued a court challenge to re @-@ acquire NBN , but it was revealed that CityWest was held by Hong Kong company Hung Lung Corporation , thereby violating foreign ownership laws . Following ownership changes , NBN Enterprises was sold to Washington H. Soul Pattinson for A \$ 36 million .

NBN was one of many stations opposed to aggregation , and offered an alternative by opening up a second station which it would operate for a period of time before selling it . This proposal was however rejected , and aggregation occurred on 31 December 1991 , with NBN acquiring Nine Network affiliation . Following aggregation , the station 's coverage expanded to cover all of northern New South Wales , whilst concurrently programming extended to twenty @-@ four hours in a day , in stereophonic sound . In 1994 , NBN Television 's logo was updated to a pseudo @-@ Nine logo , similar to fellow affiliate WIN Television .

== 2000s ==

Throughout the 2000s , NBN was regarded as one of the leaders in digital broadcasting , not only being the first to produce a nightly regional news bulletin in full digital format , using a digital friendly news set , but also Australia 's first fully digital outside broadcast van .

In 2004 , Washington H. Soul Pattinson began moves to transfer control of the station to its publicly listed subsidiary , Soul Pattinson Telecommunications , which became SP Telemedia as a result .

On 30 January 2006 , NBN adopted a new logo and on air graphics , in line with Nine 's new logo . However , the news department did not update its graphics until 15 March . During April 2007 , SP Telemedia announced that it would consider selling NBN Television , and had received at least two

bids , one each from WIN Corporation and PBL Media . On 9 May 2007 , PBL Media 's ( now Nine Entertainment Co . ) A \$ 250 million bid became final , winning the sale . However , upon acquiring NBN , PBL did not fold it into the main Nine Network , but continued to operate it as a regional station . The purchase also secured permanent status of supplying Nine 's content to the station 's entire coverage area , sparing any future affiliation switches ( particularly the 2016 Australian television shakeup involving Southern Cross Austereo and WIN Corporation ) .

Following Nine 's relaunch of their high definition simulcast as " Nine HD " on 17 March 2008 , NBN launched their own HD simulcast in mid @-@ 2008 called " NBN HD " .

On 9 August 2009 , NBN began transmission of the new digital channel GO ! ( now 9Go ! ) on channel 88 .

= = = 2010s = = =

In 2010 , it was announced that two of NBN 's inner Newcastle retransmitter sites in Charlestown and Cooks Hill were selected to carry 3D broadcasts of the 2010 State of Origin series .

On 26 September 2010 , NBN began transmission of the HD digital channel GEM ( now 9Gem ) on channel 80 .

On 26 March 2012 , NBN began transmission of Nine 's metropolitan informercial channel Extra on channel 84 .

On 27 January 2014 , along with the Nine Network , NBN switched from the Supertext logo to Nine 's Closed Captioning logo .

After Nine revived 9HD and launched new lifestyle channel 9Life on 26 November 2015 , NBN made no announcements of its intent to follow Nine 's move in regional areas , instead continuing to broadcast 9Gem 's HD feed on channel 80 . NBN released a statement on its website days before the 9HD relaunch , saying that efforts are made to upgrade its stations across the region . On 10 February 2016 , Nine Entertainment Co. announced that NBN would receive both 9HD and 9Life in " coming months " , with further confirmation on 16 February that they would launch on 1 March 2016 . As a result , their channel listing was reshuffled to match to Nine 's metropolitan listing with 9Gem on channel 82 , 9Go ! on channel 83 , 9Life on channel 84 and Extra on channel 85 .

On 9 February 2016 , it was announced that Kylie Blucher , managing director of QTQ Brisbane , would be appointed managing director of NBN while retaining her position at QTQ , stating that she would " be splitting [ her ] time between Brisbane and Newcastle " .

Alongside the launch of 9HD and 9Life on 1 March 2016 , NBN 's unique branding began to be phased out in favour of Nine 's mainstream branding already in place on its metropolitan stations and its Darwin station . The mainstream logos for Nine and 9HD were used with " NBN " written alongside in a smaller font . On 1 July 2016 , coinciding with the media shakeup of WIN and Southern Cross , NBN 's unique branding was completely phased out . However , NBN News remains under its unique name and the small " NBN " on the Nine watermark is still used in areas where NBN 's signal overlaps with TCN Sydney and QTQ Brisbane to differentiate between the stations .

= = News = =

NBN News is the only regional mainland news service to produce a nightly bulletin seven nights a week . The news service employs 60 staff and produces over 20 @,@ 000 local news stories annually , of which is combined with news reports from the Nine Network , the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and ITN ; with local stories in all of its sub @-@ markets . Throughout its history , NBN News produced Good Morning News , Good Evening News , News Night , NBN Evening News , and NBN Late Edition News and currently running NBN News .

NBN 's local news is presented from the station 's news studios at Mosbri Crescent in Newcastle , by Paul Lobb and Natasha Beyersdorf on weekdays , with Jane Goldsmith on weekends . Mitchell Hughes and Gavin Morris present sport and weather respectively on weekdays , whilst weekend sport is presented by Chris White .

NBN was the first to launch an hour @-@ long news bulletin in April 1972 , and from launch night until the 1980s , Murray Finlay was the face of NBN 's news bulletins , and was one of Australia 's longest serving newsreaders . In 1975 , Finlay was joined by Ray Dinneen at the news desk , who remained in that position until retirement in December 2010 . In 1979 , the news service received an award for its coverage of the Star Hotel riot .

On 1 March 1985 , Jim Sullivan began his career as news director for the service , which has ultimately led him to become Australia 's longest serving news director .

NBN News ' footage of the tragic events of the 1989 Newcastle earthquake was beamed throughout the world , with NBN 's reporters also being interviewed by international news services .

During the 1990s , the news service produced bulletins for the breakfast and late night timeslots , however this was later replaced by the Nine Network 's Nightline bulletin . Also , for a short period , the 4.30pm bulletin was broadcast coupled with introductions and weather reports produced by the station in Newcastle .

Liaising with NBN News director Jim Sullivan , NBN Late Edition News producer , Matt Carden secured a live feed through the Nine Network of ABC America enabling first pictures to be aired of the New York attacks within minutes . When NBN Late Edition News opened a short time later , newsreader Jodi McKay handed over to ABC News America 's coverage of events , anchored by Peter Jennings . The bulletin was extended until 1am when NBN handed over to TCN @-@ 9 for the start of almost five days of continuous national coverage .

NBN News is unique as it simulcasts live across all 6 markets . After the major national stories are presented , the program is split into six Local Window opt @-@ outs , featuring pre @-@ recorded local bulletins for each regional market and a live local news round @-@ up for Newcastle . After the first break , the bulletin continues as a live simulcast across the network with further Local Window opt @-@ outs for sport and weather . News , sport and weather presenters start early at NBN recording introductions to each of the local stories which will be inserted into the live broadcast at 6pm . Top Stories are produced by regional news bureaus at Port Macquarie , Coffs Harbour , Central Coast , Tamworth , Lismore and the Gold Coast .

In 2006 , NBN aired its 20,000th news bulletin during the week of 26 March ; commemorating the event , NBN News produced five news specials that summarised the prior 44 years of news production .

NBN also broadcasts Nine Network 's news content , including Nine 's Early Morning News , Today , Nine 's Morning News , Nine News Now , Nine 's Afternoon News , A Current Affair , and Nine News : First at Five . NBN , however , does not air Nine 's flagship 6PM Bulletin ( i.e. either Nine News Sydney or Nine News Queensland ) , since NBN News serves as the station 's flagship bulletin .

Paul Lobb took over as the network 's main male newsreader after Ray Dinneen retired on 17 December 2010 .

Following the appointment of Kylie Blucher as the station 's managing director , NBN News opener and graphics were relaunched , aligning with Nine 's metropolitan and Darwin stations , yet retaining the well @-@ known theme music composed by Laurence Schuberth . Although a " lite " version of the graphics were introduced in February 2014 , it did not become identical with Nine News until April 2016 .

= = Local programming = =

NBN has always produced some local programming , and had set a record for most local programming and transmission hours in its first week of operation . It was also a member of Australian Television Facilities , and had a hand in the production of drama series Silent Number .

In 1963 , NBN won the Logie Award for Enterprising Programming ( which was only for country stations ) , and another Outstanding Contribution by a Regional Station award in 1978 . NBN purchased the Romper Room franchise from Fremantle International in 1967 , which broadcast for over three decades . The original hostess was Miss Anne , followed by Miss Lyn , Miss Pauline and finally , Miss Kim who hosted the program until its demise due to ' political correctness ' . ( For

example , a favourite feature called ' bounce @-@ the @-@ ball ' was deemed inappropriate because not all children could bounce a ball ) . At first the ' Miss 's ' were assisted by NBN 's station mascot , Buttons the Cat , who underwent a number of incarnations as its costume aged and became outdated . Later , Buttons was retired , being replaced by Humphrey B. Bear ( as NBN had gained the rights to the character through their purchase of Southern Television Corporation ) , A Local suited character was then determined to be more suitable for a regional Television Station and the concept of Big Dog was created , the character and suit were created in Wyong on the NSW Central Coast and Big Dog came into being .

Local travel agency Jayes presented their own travel show , Travel Time with Jayes , broadcast on Sunday nights for over 20 years , starting in 1962 . Also , every four years , NBN produces a live 24 @-@ hour telethon to raise money for local charities .

NBN premiered Today Extra in 1989 . The lifestyle program was broadcast three days per week as part of NBN 's day @-@ time line @-@ up . On 3 January 2007 , it was announced that NBN would axe Today Extra , claiming it was no longer economically viable , with a drop in ratings and a shrinking advertising base . The program 's axing ended the career for former weatherman Nat Jeffery , who presented the program for 18 years , and worked at the station for 28 years .

= = Community support = =

NBN has long been a supporter of many local events and groups in the northern New South Wales region . They are currently sponsors of the Newcastle Northstars in the Australian Ice Hockey League . The station has sponsored the Newcastle Knights NRL rugby league team for most of the 1990s and the 2000s , with the NBN logo visible on the team 's uniform . The former Hunter Pirates NBL basketball team ( and their predecessor , the Newcastle Falcons ) as well as the Newcastle United Jets soccer team ( and their predecessor , the Newcastle Breakers ) , have also both received sponsorship from NBN Television .

= = Logos = =

The original NBN logo , featuring the numeral three inside a ring was replaced by several others over the years . The three was used due to the station 's frequency allocation , being transmitted on VHF channel 3 from a transmitter atop Mount Sugarloaf near Newcastle . On 22 November 1979 the logo was updated with the letters NBN replacing the numeral three . The blue and green logo coincided with the renaming of the station from Channel Three to the current name , NBN Television , and its parent company renaming from the Newcastle Broadcasting and Television Corporation to NBN Limited .

Despite pressure from the Nine Network to adopt the nine dots , NBN Television retained its logo for a few years after aggregation . However , in 1994 , NBN added nine dots into a new logo designed similarly to the Nine Network 's , and also began using Nine 's on @-@ air promotion , with the NBN logo replacing Nine 's . In 1998 , the dots were changed to spheres .

Three @-@ dimensions were added to the letters NBN in 2002 , coinciding with a revamp of the station 's on @-@ air identity , concurrently with the Nine Network . On 30 January 2006 , the station relaunched its logo to coincide with the Nine Network 's fiftieth year of broadcasting . The new logo designed by Bruce Dunlop Associates saw the removal of the nine dots , with a blue square added to behind the letters NBN . However , in 2008 , the nine dots were reinstated into the logo and the dots are first 3D discs in 2008 , then 2D dots in January 2009 , then later spheres in September 2009 .