

# Aboriginal Radio Holds its Own

By Kalinga Seneviratne

When the Brisbane Indigenous Media Association (BIMA) applied for a community radio licence they had to compete with a Christian group which argued that there were more Christians than aborigines in Brisbane and thus they merited a licence first. But BIMA was able to convince Australian broadcasting authorities that though there were more Christians than aborigines here, the latter had a greater right to get their voice heard because the Christians were well represented in the rest of the media.

Popularly known as 98.9 FM, it is the first Australian aboriginal-run community radio station in a major city. Today, 98.9 FM is more mainstream radio than a fringe community station. 'We happen to be black and we happen to be community radio, but we see ourselves as stakeholders in the mainstream radio industry in Brisbane,' Tiga Bayles, general manager and founder of the aboriginal radio station, said.

Bayles argues that an attraction is country music, a genre of local Australian music that is popular both among white and aboriginal Australians. For many of Australia's indigenous people who grew up in the outback (countryside), this music is popular entertainment. Over the past 50 years famous country music stars have included legendary aboriginal names like Jimmy Little and Roger Knox.

'Country music is a bridge that brings together the two communities – indigenous and non-indigenous,' argues Prof Michael Meadows of Brisbane's Griffith University. 'The reason it works for 98.9 FM is because of indigenous people's close affinity with country music,' he added.

In addition to day long country music, 98.9 FM broadcasts five-minute news bulletins each hour. These are produced by the Brisbane-based National Indigenous News Service (NINS) of which Bayles is the chairman. He explained that they have a particular policy that stories need to be about or related to indigenous communities, but also appeal to the majority communities.

Thus, NINS, which provides an indigenous perspective

on news, is distributed to some 150 community radio stations across Australia by satellite. Bayles also broadcasts a live talk programme, which is also distributed nationally by NINS. 'I bring in a guest to talk live in the studio or talk live on the telephone on air. In this way we're giving a white audience a black experience,' he argues.

Meadows has done an audience survey of aboriginal media, especially radio, in Queensland, whose state capital is Brisbane. 'Radio plays a very important role in providing the link for remote indigenous communities with the outside community,' he argues. 'People everywhere we went said indigenous radio was the voice of the people. It's theirs and they have control over it and they can say what they want.'

Australia's indigenous people have been locked out of the mainstream media for a long time. Worse, especially on commercial media, they have been stereotyped as uneducated 'no-hope' people living on government handouts. In the past 20 years, a new breed of indigenous people, well-educated and articulate, like Bayles, have led a counter-attack against this negative portrayal of Australia's aboriginal people. As a result there are now 105 unique small community radio and television broadcasting facilities known as Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Services in far-flung communities.

While Bayles is happy with this rapid growth of aboriginal media in Australia, he is concerned that most of it is not professional enough. He says a lot of them turn up at the station, play whatever music they like, talk a bit on air and go away. To make aboriginal radio more professional, 98.9 FM has set up a training arm offering three certificate courses along with e-learning facilities. They bring in six to eight station managers from across Queensland to Brisbane for training three or four times a year. 'We introduce them to our style, the standards and the philosophy behind this station. The philosophy is that everybody that has ears is a potential listener to your radio station,' explained Bayles.

## Questions 1–8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

Write

**TRUE** *if the statement agrees with the information*

**FALSE** *if the statement contradicts the information*

**NOT GIVEN** *if there is no information on this*

- 1 Initially, most people in Brisbane objected to the radio station. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 The station feels it is excluded from being part of the wider media. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Aboriginal Australians have struggled to become successful in country music. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 98.9 FM has introduced country music to the indigenous people of Australia. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The station researches and produces its own news programmes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 A show on 98.9 FM is also broadcast across the whole country. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Some research shows that people far from cities rely on radio. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Indigenous people in Queensland feel represented by the radio station. \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions 9–13

Complete the summary of the last two paragraphs of the Reading Passage.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

The **9** \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia have long excluded aborigines. When programmes have covered people from those communities, indigenous people have generally been seen as dependent on **10** \_\_\_\_\_ from the state. Recently, though, **11** \_\_\_\_\_ aborigines with a good education have become involved in the media. There has been **12** \_\_\_\_\_ in the number of radio and television stations run by indigenous people themselves, although there is a feeling that they aren't always **13** \_\_\_\_\_. 98.9 FM attempts to spread its high standards to other stations in Queensland.

# Language Acquisition in Children

In nearly all cases, children's language development follows a predictable sequence. However, there is a great deal of variation in the age at which children reach a given milestone. Furthermore, each child's development is usually characterised by gradual acquisition of particular abilities: thus 'correct' use of English verbal inflection will emerge over a period of a year or more, starting from a stage where verbal inflections are always left out, and ending in a stage where they are nearly always used correctly.

Experiments have shown that most infants can give evidence of understanding some words at the age of four to nine months, often even before babbling begins. Newborns can distinguish speech from non-speech, and can also distinguish among speech sounds within a couple of months of birth.

During the first two months of life, infant vocalisations are mainly expressions of discomfort, such as crying and fussing, along with sounds produced as a by-product of actions such as coughing, sucking and swallowing.

During the period from about two to four months, infants begin making 'comfort sounds', typically in response to pleasurable interaction with a caregiver. The earliest comfort sounds may be grunts or sighs, with later versions being more vowel-like 'coos'. Initially, comfort sounds are brief and produced in isolation, but later appear in series. Laughter appears at around four months.

During the period from four to seven months, infants typically engage in 'vocal play', manipulating pitch (to produce 'squeals' and 'growls'), loudness (producing 'yells'), and also manipulating tract\* closures to produce friction noises, nasal murmurs, 'raspberries' and snorts.

At about seven months, 'canonical babbling' appears: infants start to make extended sounds that are chopped up rhythmically by oral articulations into syllable-like sequences, opening and closing their jaws, lips and tongue. Repeated sequences are often produced, such as 'bababa'.

No other animal does anything like babbling. It has often been hypothesised that vocal play and babbling have the function of 'practising' speech-like gestures. Both vocal

play and babbling are produced more often in interactions with caregivers, but infants will also produce them when they are alone.

At about ten months, infants start to utter recognisable words. Some word-like vocalisations that do not correlate well with words in the local language may consistently be used by particular infants to express particular emotional states. For the most part, recognisable words are used in a context that seems to involve naming: 'duck' while the child hits a toy duck off the edge of the bath; 'sweep' while the child sweeps with a broom; 'car' while the child looks out of the living room window at cars moving on the street below; 'papa' when the child hears the doorbell.

Young children often use words in ways that are too narrow or too broad: 'bottle' used only for plastic bottles; 'teddy' used only for a particular bear; 'dog' used for lambs, cats and cows as well as dogs. These under-extensions and over-extensions develop and change over time in an individual child's usage.

There is often a spurt of vocabulary acquisition during the second year. Early words are acquired at a rate of one to three per week; in many cases the rate may suddenly increase to eight to ten new words per week, after 40 or so words have been learnt. However, some children show a more steady rate of acquisition during these early stages. During the second year, word combinations begin to appear. The rate of vocabulary acquisition accelerates in the third year and beyond: a plausible estimate would be an average of ten words a day during pre-school and elementary school years.

At about the age of two, children first begin to use grammatical elements. In English, this includes finite auxiliaries ('is', 'was'), verbal tense and agreement affixes ('-ed' and '-s'), nominative pronouns ('I', 'she'), and determiners ('the', 'a'). Over a year to a year and a half, sentences get longer, grammatical elements are less often omitted and less often inserted incorrectly, and multiple-clause sentences become commoner.

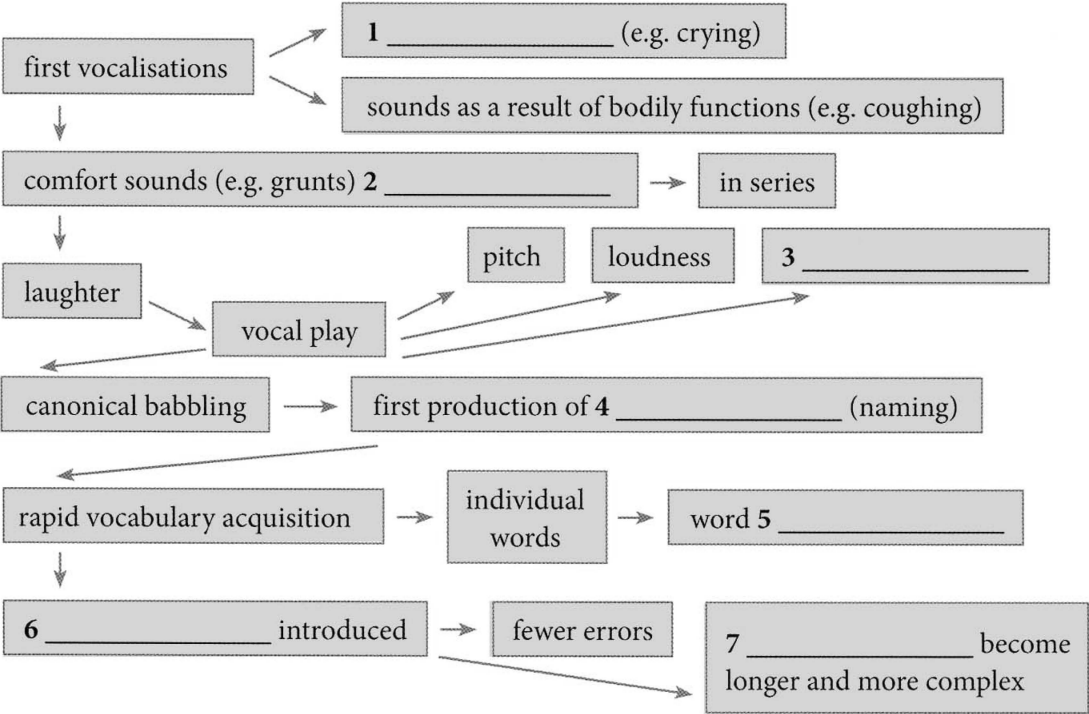
\* part of the body, such as the nose, mouth and throat, with an opening for air

Questions 1–7

Complete the flow chart.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Stages of sound and language production in young children



Questions 8–13

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

Write

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>TRUE</b>      | <i>if the statement agrees with the information</i> |
| <b>FALSE</b>     | <i>if the statement contradicts the information</i> |
| <b>NOT GIVEN</b> | <i>if there is no information on this</i>           |

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 8 Girls usually begin to produce language at an earlier age than boys.                  | _____ |
| 9 Some four-month-old babies seem to understand certain words.                          | _____ |
| 10 'Comfort sounds' are most often produced in the presence of someone else.            | _____ |
| 11 Baby apes also go through a 'canonical babbling' stage.                              | _____ |
| 12 Babies sometimes engage in 'vocal play' when they are on their own.                  | _____ |
| 13 Children with high intelligence make fewer mistakes with under- and over-extensions. | _____ |



# Natural Rubber

## An exotic material

**A** Today, we take modern materials very much for granted, without knowing their origin or realising their versatility. Rubber, for example, is a vital component of cars, supplying traction between the wheels and the road, as well as sealing oil and fuel from leakage and absorbing unwanted vibrations from the engine. Rubber also supplies us with many domestic items (toy balloons, water bottles, condoms, carpet underlay, mattresses and cushioning), office products (rubber bands, erasers) and articles of sports and recreation (footballs, golf balls, tennis balls, etc.). But where does rubber come from?

**B** Natural rubber was discovered during the various invasions of South America by the Spanish conquistadors in the 15th century. The material, made simply by drying out the sap of a native tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*, was first spotted by Columbus in the West Indies in the 1490s, where it was used to make balls. It was also made into bags for carrying liquids by moulding flexible rubber sheet into the desired shape. Rubber was clearly a material well known to native cultures, and recent discoveries of its use in ancient ceremonies are hardly surprising.

**C** Despite its early discovery by the Spanish, it was not until about 1730 that rubber was introduced into Britain, and not until 1791 that its use for the mackintosh (the rubberised raincoat) was introduced. In 1770 Joseph Priestley, who also discovered oxygen, noticed that rubber erases pencil marks. Despite this serendipitous finding, it still took some time before the material was to find widespread application. One reason for this was its deterioration with time, degrading in air to a sticky unmanageable mess. That was to change dramatically with the invention of 'vulcanisation', when, in 1834, Charles Goodyear found that cooking the material with raw sulphur stabilised it and stiffened products manufactured from the substance.

**D** This discovery opened the way to pneumatic tyres for early vehicles such as carriages (travel in which was rather painful owing to the rigid wheels and rough roads then in existence). The first patent for a tyre dates from 1846, when Robert Thompson announced the pneumatic tyre, a great advance for wheeled traffic. The key to the idea is the cushion provided by the air pocket, the pressure of which can be varied to suit the user. The invention languished, perhaps because of problems with containing the inevitable leaks of air from the many inner tubes. However, solid rubber tyres were subsequently adopted, with much reduced cushioning.

**E** At the same time, vulcanised rubber came to be used for an increasing number of products, such as galoshes or Wellington boots and improved mackintoshes, where rubber was combined with textile to make a waterproof fabric. The growing demand for natural rubber made it a commodity product, yet only supplied by one area in the world – Brazil. As a result, the price soared, creating rich entrepreneurs, who essentially exploited natives to collect the raw latex from the rainforest. But since the tree could potentially be grown in any tropical climate, why not collect seedlings and transplant to other countries?

**F** Intensive efforts were made at Kew Gardens to raise healthy plants from seeds collected by Sir Henry Wickham in Brazil in 1876. The young trees raised in the tropical greenhouse at Kew were shipped to Ceylon and Malaysia to form the nucleus of large plantations. Those countries were able to meet the rising demands of the rubber industry, and the price of raw rubber fell dramatically.

**G** In 1888, over forty years after Thompson's invention of the pneumatic tyre, John Dunlop, a Belfast vet, responded to a request from his young son for better tyres for his trike. When ridden over the rough cobbles of Belfast's streets, solid rubber tyres just could not give a comfortable ride. Various rubber tubes were used by vets, and Dunlop re-invented the pneumatic tyre by fitting a wheel with an inflated rubber tube protected by a heavier outer cover. After much experimentation, the world's first bicycle tyre emerged.

**H** Dunlop's first patent to protect the invention was inevitably invalid because of Thompson's prior patent, but he went on to invent the valve and numerous other components which were proved valid. Those inventions were the base on which he and others built the bike tyre industry, which brought cycling into a new era for everyone. It was an era when industrial progress had created new-found wealth and leisure time for millions. As with any new and fundamental invention, the idea was taken up by others, in particular by Michelin in France (1896), to develop a much heavier-duty device, the car tyre.

**I** Today a wide range of synthetic rubber is available to designers, many for specialty tasks requiring, for example, very high or low temperatures. Yet natural rubber is still a valuable international commodity, helping many developing countries earn useful hard currency. The technology of processing the raw rubber has improved greatly over the years, but the basics still remain the same as they were when Kew Gardens selected the best plants for cloning and transplanting over one hundred years ago.

Source: The Open University

### Questions 1–8

*The reading passage has nine paragraphs A–I.*

*Choose the correct heading for paragraphs B–I from the list of headings below.*

*Write the correct number i–xii next to question numbers 1–8.*

#### List of Headings

- i The future of rubber
- ii Useful additions to an existing idea
- iii How to grow a rubber tree
- iv Useful for making your coat waterproof
- v The first known uses
- vi Exporting new forests
- vii Inspiration from a bumpy bicycle ride
- viii How different is rubber nowadays?
- ix New demand leads to dramatically escalating cost
- x Unpopular due to decay
- xi A good idea in principle
- xii Many modern uses

Example	Answer
Paragraph A	<b>xii</b>

- |               |       |               |       |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1 Paragraph B | ..... | 5 Paragraph F | ..... |
| 2 Paragraph C | ..... | 6 Paragraph G | ..... |
| 3 Paragraph D | ..... | 7 Paragraph H | ..... |
| 4 Paragraph E | ..... | 8 Paragraph I | ..... |

### Questions 9–13

Complete the summary below using words from the box.

#### Dunlop's comfortable tyre

Dunlop originally devised a new tyre to make his son's trike more comfortable. He was familiar with different types of rubber as he used them in his **9** ..... . A lighter inner tube filled with air was fitted inside a heavier rubber **10** ..... . Unfortunately, he could not patent it due to a **11** ..... between his and an earlier invention. It was the **12** ..... of the valve which proved his success. Around this time people had more **13** ..... and so cycling was taken up by the masses.

water	match	city	tube	supplement
difference	subtraction	transport	life	oxygen
practice	money	addition	casing	similarity

### Questions 14–16

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

- 14** What is the name of the method which prevents rubber from deteriorating?
- 15** What happened when the demand for rubber greatly outstripped supply?
- 16** In which tropical countries were the new supplies of rubber trees grown?

1 NOT GIVEN

There is no mention of most people objecting to the radio station, only that it competed for a licence with a Christian group.

2 FALSE

The text states that today, 98.9 FM is more mainstream radio than a fringe community station.

3 NOT GIVEN

There is no mention of Aboriginals struggling to succeed in country music, only that some are famous.

4 FALSE

The text states that country music is popular for many indigenous people who grew up in the outback or in desert reserves.

5 FALSE

The text states the station broadcasts five-minute news bulletins which are produced by the Brisbane-based National Indigenous News Service (NINS).

6 TRUE

The text states Bayles broadcasts a live talk programme, which is also distributed nationally by NINS.

7 TRUE

The text states an audience survey revealed radio plays a very important role in providing the link for remote indigenous communities with the outside community.

8 TRUE

The text states indigenous radio is the voice of the [indigenous] people .

9 (mainstream) media Australia's indigenous people have been locked out of the mainstream media for a long time.

10 handouts

... they have been stereotyped as uneducated 'no-hope' people living on government handouts.

11 articulate

... a new breed of indigenous people, well-educated and articulate, like Bayles ...

12 rapid growth

While Bayles is happy with this rapid growth of aboriginal media in Australia ..

13 professional (enough)

.. . he is concerned that most of it is not professional enough.



1 expressions of discomfort

*... infant vocalisations are mainly expressions of discomfort such as crying ...*

2 in isolation

*Initially comfort sounds are brief and produced in isolation. but later appear in series.*

3 tract closures

*... :vocal play; manipulating pitch ... , loudness ... and also manipulating tract· closures . ...*

4 recognisable words

*For the most part, recognisable words are used in a context that seems to involve naming ...*

5 combinations

*During the second year, word combinations begin to appear.*

6 grammatical elements

*At about the age of two, children first begin to use grammatical elements.*

7 sentences

*Over a year to a year and a half, sentences get longer ...*

8 NOT GIVEN

There is no information about the differences between boys and girls.

9 TRUE

The text states that most infants can give evidence of understanding some words at the age of four to nine months, of which some would be four months old.

10 TRUE

The text states that infants begin making 'comfort sounds', typically in response to pleasurable interaction with a caregiver.

11 FALSE

The text states that no other animal does anything like [canonical] babbling.

12 TRUE

The text states that infants will also produce them [vocal play and babbling] when they are alone.

13 NOT GIVEN

There is no mention of students with higher intelligence making fewer mistakes with under- and over-extensions.

1. v
2. x
3. xi
4. ix
5. vi
6. vii
7. ii
8. viii
9. practice
10. casing
11. similarity
12. addition
13. money
14. Vulcanisation
15. Price Soared
16. Ceylon and Malaysia