

MEDIA RELEASE

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Joan Jackson with the first television license, 1959 [PRG 1614/5]



Lionel Williams on the set of Adelaide Tonight, 1962
Channel Nine Adelaide archival collection

A look at television in South Australia from its beginnings to now Exhibitions at the State Library

Discover the colourful personalities, events and iconic shows that have shaped television in South Australia in two exhibitions at the State Library. Travelling back to 1959, when Channel Nine was the first television station to commence broadcasting in South Australia, then moving through to today the exhibitions remind us of the impact of television on our lives. It can make us laugh, cry, express opinion, discuss or ponder the ways of the world.

From the collections of the State Library, ***Begin transmission – South Australia turns on the television*** shines a spotlight on some of the great memories South Australians have created and enjoyed on our screens since television broadcasts began in September 1959. The exhibition then rewinds a little further to unravel the story of television's slow road to Australia.

Alan Smith, Director State Library of South Australia, comments, "*Begin transmission* is a wonderful example of the depth and diversity of our collections. On display in our Treasures Wall, it's an opportunity for visitors to see items that they might not associate with the Library, for example music records or toys."

On display is a much loved South Australian character – Humphrey B Bear. Standing 84cm tall, the toy was donated to the Library in 2013. Other gems include the personal scrapbooks of *Touch of Elegance* hostess

Jaye Walton, nostalgic photographs of South Australia's much loved personalities and footage of iconic programs like *Country and Western Hour*. Also featured is a wall collage of 110 *TV Week* covers dating back to 1960.

We are pleased to have worked closely with Channel Nine to co-curate ***Channel Nine Adelaide – 1959 to now***. This exhibition takes you back to 1959, where it all started for Channel Nine in South Australia.

This iconic television station was the first station on air in South Australia. It was built largely on programs and on air personalities that reflected the interests of the local community. Today, Channel Nine still maintains this strong local focus.

Sean O'Brien, Managing Director of Channel Nine Adelaide says, "We're thrilled to have partnered with the State Library of South Australia to showcase the wonderful memories of Channel Nine Adelaide across our 56 year history.

"As we continue our broadcasting journey in to the digital age, one aspect of our business that has remained constant is that Channel Nine is still about informing and entertaining South Australians.

"This exhibition allows us to look in the mirror at some of the milestones we have achieved as South Australia's first television station."

From rarely-seen NWS 9 archives the exhibition features some of the iconic shows that South Australians grew up with – *Adelaide Tonight*, *The Channel Niners*, *Here's Humphrey* or *the Country and Western Hour* – and the personalities on our screens – Lionel Williams, Kevin Crease, Roger Cardwell or Ian Fairweather.

The world of news is also explored in the mock 'news room', where visitors can sit behind a replica of the Nine News desk. See how news has evolved from 16mm film to stunning High Definition, the major events covered by Channel Nine and the newsreaders who have delivered the news to us each night.

Together the exhibitions provide visitors with a nostalgic look at how television has evolved through the years to what is on offer today. As we fast forward to the future the way we create and consume media continues to change. The devices may have changed but South Australians continue to turn on the television.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Begin transmission – South Australia turns on the television

9 April – 5 June 2016

Mon-Wed 10am – 8pm, Thu-Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat-Sun 10am – 5pm. Closed public holidays

Treasures Wall

State Library of South Australia

Free entry

Channel Nine Adelaide – 1959 to now

9 April – 19 June 2016

Open 10am – 5pm daily, closed public holidays

Institute Gallery and Ante Room, State Library of South Australia

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

Free entry

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

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