

SOUTHERN TASMANIA

MAJOR UPGRADE AND EXPANSION PROJECT

In conjunction with the project being carried out in Northern Tasmania, work has also been undertaken on a major project in Southern Tasmania. The Southern Tasmania project involves the aggregation of the Southern Cross Network from Northern Tasmania into Southern Tasmania, as well as the upgrade of the ABC/SBS services and National FM services.

Specifically, the work conducted in Southern Tasmania can be divided into three stages. The first stage was the work required to allow Southern Cross into the southern market of Tasmania by 30 April 1994. This work involved the installation of a UHF slot antenna and 30 kW UHF TV transmitter for Southern Cross at Mt. Wellington. The UHF

Radio National and Radio Regional FM services at the east coast sites of Bicheno and Swansea, and the rearrangement and upgrading of FM services on the west coast. This rearrangement consisted of the changing of feeding arrangements of the FM Regional Radio services from 7QN, Queenstown to Waratah. In addition, new Radio National services were installed at the west coast sites.

The third stage of the work involves the construction of four new translator facilities around the Hobart area. These sites which are due for completion by 30 October 1994 are located at Orford, Cygnet, Geeveston and Dover. At this stage, most of the external and internal plant work is complete at these sites and only the power and telephone services need to be connected before the sites are completed.

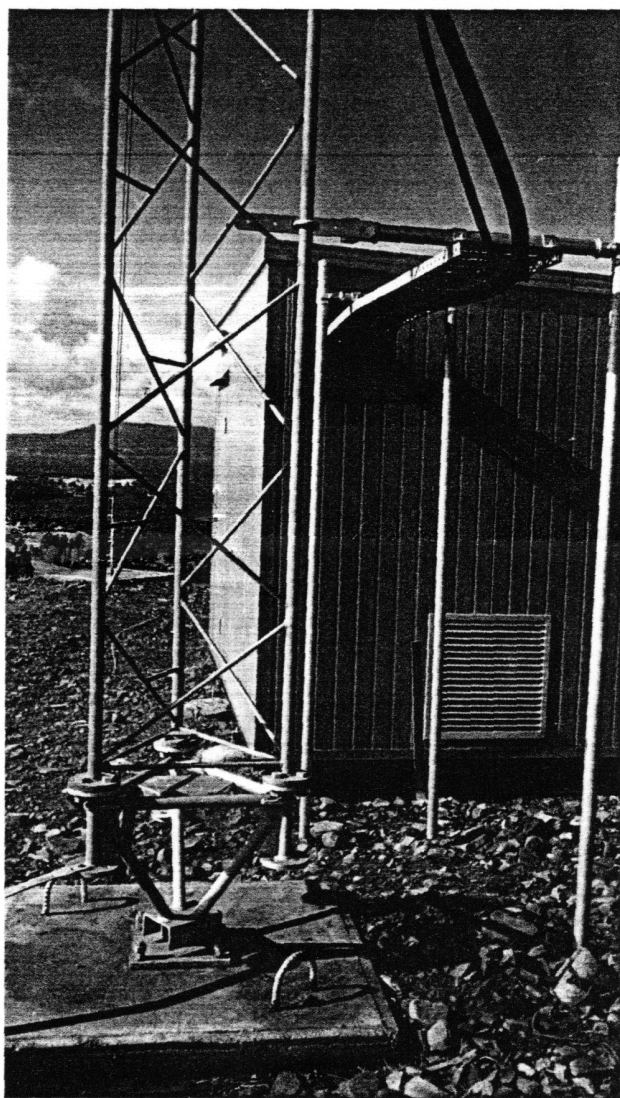
An interesting point to note regarding this project was that the first stage of the project was completed in eight months from receipt of purchase order from the NTA. This is much faster than the twelve to eighteen months which is usually taken for completion of translator facilities. In fact,



UHF antenna being placed in position on mast at Taroona.

slot antenna will be used to broadcast Southern Cross until the final Mt. Wellington UHF antenna is installed next summer. In addition, new translator sites were installed at Strahan and Swansea and station upgrades were carried out at Queenstown (Mt. Owen), Rosebery (Mt. Read), Bicheno and Taroona.

The second stage of the work planned for completion by 30 June 1994 involved the upgrade of FM services in Southern Tasmania. This work involved the installation of



Building and mast at Dover.

in order to achieve this date, the translators had to be air freighted from Japan, instead of the normal sea freighting.

Many unique and difficult tasks occurred during this project. Some of these occurred due to the extreme weather conditions which occur on the sites on the west coast, particularly Mt. Owen. At Mt. Owen, the only access to the site is via four wheel drive vehicles with large drops both sides of the road and a very steep and winding road. Our staff did a magnificent job to get all the external plant and

internal plant material up this site and installed in a very short time.

Another interesting incident occurred at Mt. Wellington after the installation of the UHF slot antenna. One night, a cable drum which weighs nearly two tonnes, was moved five metres sideways by the wind which was blowing at over 160 km/h and fell onto the newly installed UHF feeder. This caused a short circuit between the inner and outer of the feeder and tripped the VSWR protection of the Southern Cross transmitter putting them off air. Luckily, Southern Cross was only transmitting test pattern but it does show the extreme weather conditions that can occur at Mt. Wellington.

The external plant work on this project was conducted by a lines crew from Victoria and another made up of staff from Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. These people all worked extremely hard under difficult conditions.

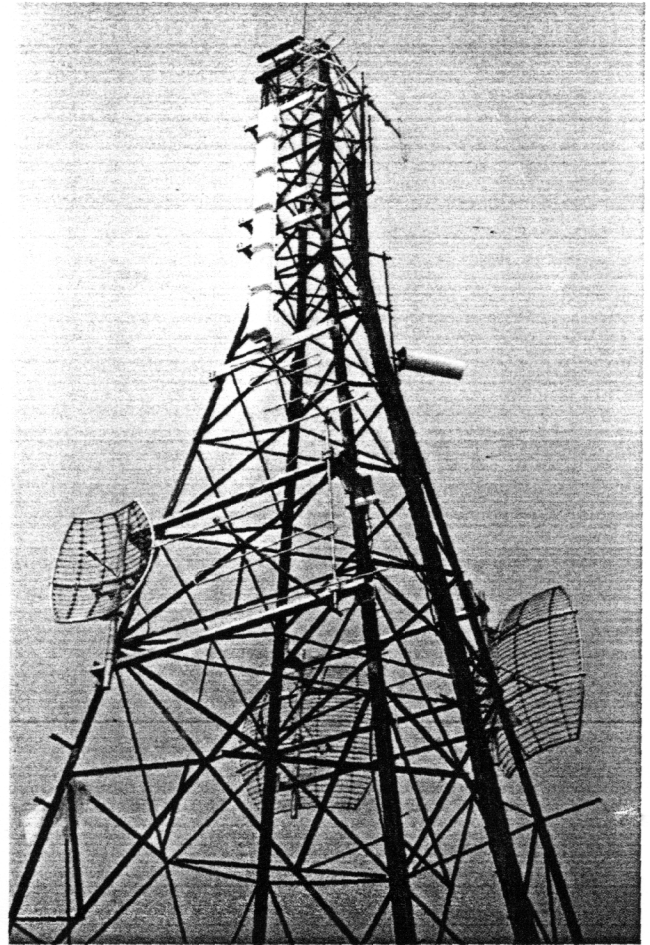
The internal plant work was carried out by staff from Victoria and local Hobart operations staff. They too did a magnificent job and completed their work in the required time.

The final part of the Southern Tasmania project will be the completion of the work at Mt. Wellington. This work involves the installation of Band I, Band II/III and UHF antennas and radome on the new concrete tower and the installation of a new Band I transmitter and FM transmitters. This work is programmed for the 1994/95 summer.

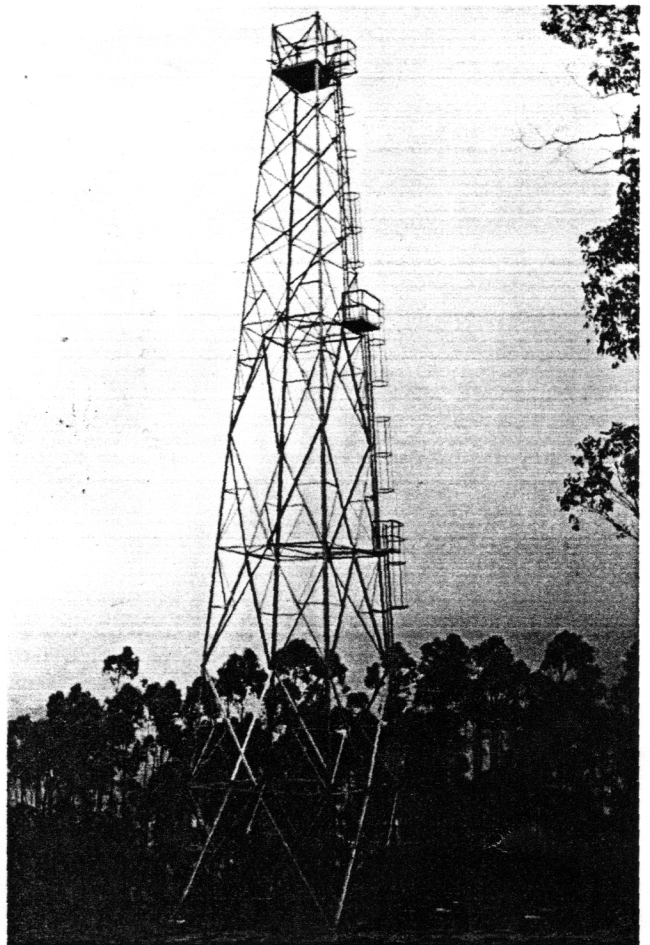
MARK STEVENS



Mast thrust block formwork and steelwork in place, Strahan.



Mt. Read tower with UHF TV antenna.



Tower at Cygnet.