



University of  
**Southern**  
**Queensland**

# Channel Nine – 50 Years Behind the Scenes

**Dr. Ashley P. Jones**

**[Creative/Applied Media Collection]**

Creative/Applied Media - Original broadcast, distribution or cinema release of a media production



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# Channel Nine – 50 Years Behind the Scenes

This is reporting the stories of the people who work behind the scenes in television. Specifically at channel nine Brisbane, the first television channel to go to air in Brisbane. The celebration of 50 years was a significant period as it was an ideal opportunity to video record the interviews of those involved. Many of the early staff and crew are now elderly and even at the time of recording some were becoming frail.

# RESEARCH STATEMENT

## *Channel Nine Brisbane – 50 Years Behind the Scenes*

### **Background**

QTQ Channel Brisbane commenced broadcasting from Mt Coot-tha, Brisbane on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1959. This was the first television station to broadcast in Queensland, followed by BTQ7 Brisbane and the ABC. Channel 0 commenced in 1965. The history of the television channel is significant, and most on-air celebrations showcase the programs and the talent on those shows. This project provides a timely recognition and a celebration of the myriad of people who worked behind the scenes. This is about their stories that completes the picture of on air and behind the scenes people who make television.

### **Contribution**

This documentary was successful in recording and gathering the stories of the many people who worked behind the scenes. This included the directors, producers, set designers, lighting, audio and production crew. This level of content supported by interviews and historic footage, has not been gathered prior to this production. The documentary was one hour in duration and was broadcast by channel nine. It is also a DVD product and housed in the UniSQ library. The individuals, by their work, tend to be behind the scenes, but they and their stories would have been lost if not for this collection of important memories.

### **Significance**

The program was aired around the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of channel nine Brisbane. It gained an audience of 60,000 viewers and was shown on Sunday September 6, 2009 at 1pm. The digital archive serves as a way of capturing these important stories and provided an additional perspective to the industry. Of significance is interviews with the first camera operator, lighting director and the first man on television, Hugh Cornish. It was pitched to the channel, and Nine Brisbane staff were exceptionally generous in their time and support. It was a significant project that brought about a triangulation between the nine network, academic staff and students. It now provides a permanent digital record of the people and their stories.



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The video is available

[https://usq.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/61UOSQ\\_INST/dodgkr/alma991005042749704691](https://usq.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/61UOSQ_INST/dodgkr/alma991005042749704691)