

## Radio Bytes

**Brief Outline:** As part of the Netd@ys Oz 2003 **Our Australia ... Our World** Project, students will have the opportunity to develop 15 – 30 minute radio programs that will be transmitted by traditional radio emissions through the Melbourne SYN FM (Community Youth Radio Network), with a simultaneous broadcast through an Internet Feed allowing interested students throughout Australia and the world to hear the broadcast over the internet.

The programs should explore issues surrounding the themes of **Making connections – celebrating diversity**.

This activity is open to all Australian students from years 7 – 10. There is a nominal cost of less than AU\$1 per minute. Please contact the Netd@ys coordinator in your state or territory to see if they can assist you with this cost. Your Netd@ys coordinator may also be able to assist you with equipment advice, loans or even training.

### Possible Program Ideas:

- Interview with various celebrities from the Netd@ys – who will be doing some of the online chats/discussion forums – perhaps the chats could follow the live broadcasts?? Generate interest and involvement in the chats
- Interview with representative from the War Memorial.
- Chips to Sushi – A discussion on how our food tastes have change over the past 30 years
- Medley of Foreign Music: A program looking at the influence of foreign/indigenous cultures on our current music
- International Pop chart! Presentation of the Pop charts from around the world. Maybe you have some foreign “hits” at home, download from a internet site or get your overseas friends to send you the latest hits. Play the song, describe what it is about and give any background you may know!
- Foreign films and their remakes: A look at foreign films that have been redone by Hollywood – student discussion, interviews
- Australian Films on the World market – a discussion on the films/actors that have made it BIG.
- Any subject of their choice, these would need to be selected and approved before production begins

### About SYN FM

Simon Goodrich recently presented at the CECAGT Conference in Canberra promoting the Students Youth Radio of engaging students in an authentic Learning task that involved the preparation, development, production and broadcast of radio programs. SYN FM runs 24 hours a day. Simon has agreed in principle to the becoming involved in the Netd@ys Project by assisting students to broadcast their programs through the SYNFM studios and with a simultaneous live Internet link.

If your school is really keen, it is possible to ask Simon to come to your school and give you guidance and training on this activity. The costs would involve getting Simon to your school, accommodation, travel and \$100 per day. Contact Simon at [simon.goodrich@syn.org.au](mailto:simon.goodrich@syn.org.au).

## How can schools get involved:

### Getting involved:

1. All schools should submit program ideas in electronic format, no later than October 1 to the Netd@ys coordinator in your state. You should include what you are going to do with preliminary ideas. You don't have to wait until the cut off date as we can go to Air from as early as October 20 and we need shows to be at SYNFM a week or so beforehand.
2. Program concepts will need to be approved before students begin working on the programs and you will need time to work on it. If you want to listen to a show before you get started go to: <http://www.syn.org.au>.
3. Once the Netd@ys committee has decided on suitability and appropriateness of program content, you will be contact as soon as possible so that you can begin working on your program. **Try to allow a month to get your program together.**

### How work is developed submitted

1. **Schools who have the capacity** or ability to create a program without additional support – (ie have a "radio recording studio" set up already and the capacity to put into a digitised format to be delivered to SYN FM) should submit directly to SYN FM at least one week before scheduled program date. The Project Coordinator will contact you regarding this.
2. **School who do not have the capacity to produce a program.** If you would really want to get involved in this program and do not have the equipment, you will need to either purchase, or borrow form other schools or in some states the Netdays Contacts may have the equipment for loan. The Netd@ys Contact person in your state may also be able to put you in touch with the right people to be your mentors throughout the program.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop confidence in the student
2. Integrate Learning technologies in a number of curriculum areas
3. Develop skills in ICT and Audio production
4. Foster an understanding of performing for an audience
5. Foster the development of writing skills and writing for a radio audience
6. Develop an understanding of structure ( developing a radio program can be somewhat like writing an essay)
7. Foster student engagement
8. Develop an understanding of culture and cultural diversity
9. Develop an indepth understanding of a topic (our presenters will need to research to become the experts)
10. Develop information Literacy skills while developing the program concepts and research behind the information to be presented.

### Involvement:

The SYNFM site has a wealth of information regarding the producing of a program, from program guidelines, and many how to documents to walk you through the process. Be sure to be in contact with the Project Coordinator at: [thea.vanos@ceo.cangoul.catholic.edu.au](mailto:thea.vanos@ceo.cangoul.catholic.edu.au) once you begin your project so that we can assist you in any way possible.

**All programs should have SYNFM promotion and also refer to the NETD@Ys Oz 2003 online Project throughout.**

## **Equipment needed for pre recorded audio pieces**

### Microphone

You can buy microphones for as little as \$20 from a place like Dick Smith but be aware that in recording the microphone is the most important part. If you have a bad microphone you will have a bad recording. Perhaps you can borrow from the music department OR a parent. The SYN SM site has advice on what type of microphones are best.

### Recorder

Purchasing or borrowing a Mini Disc Recorder is recommended. They are digital so there is minimal loss of sound quality when transferring between systems. When looking for a Mini Disc make sure that it has a microphone input and that it has the ability to record in from the microphone. These are not cheap but again your Music department, student or Netd@ys Contact may have one. For more information on recorders.

### Audio Record In (Sound Card)

To record sound you can plug your Mini Disc into the back of any computer through its inbuilt sound card. The sound will be of a lesser quality than if using a stand alone sound card. Most schools find using in built sound cards adequate and the difference in sound quality is minimal. Most computers have a sound card already built in.

### Computer

All new or recent computers can support multimedia applications. Just remember audio files require lots of disk space. A one minute wave file would take up about 10 Megabytes, about 7 floppy disks. So if you are pressed for space you may want to save this as an mp3 – a 10:1 compressed wave file.

### Headphones

All Mini Disc players come with headphones. These are the standard small headphones similar to that of other portable recorders. Any type of headphone will suffice yet most people prefer the larger headphones that don't stick right in people's ears for hygienic reasons.

### Other equipment

You will also need a CD Burner to get the finished sound files off the computer and on to a CD for assessment or radio play. It is recommended to have the CD burner on the same computer as you are storing the sound files to reduce complications in the burning process (you would not have to transfer lots of data over the network).

### Internet Connection

A necessity for part of your research! But don't forget to use the people from your own community, they are often then most valuable resources and have the best stories to share!

### Further information

Much more information can be found on the SYN FM site [www.syn.org.au](http://www.syn.org.au)  
If you need any more information you can contact Simon Goodrich (SYN FM Education Officer) on 0403 187 170

If you wish to contact the Netd@ys Radio Bytes Project Coordinator call Thea on (02) 6234 5429