Cetaceans Vs Bush

Direct link to audio - http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2006/11/ree_20061104.mp3
Produced by Eurydice Aroney and Kirsty Lee

Background
A radio documentary produced for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Aroney, Lee, 2005). This work involved the research and retrieval of underwater audio recordings from specialized scientific and military sites and the sourcing and broadcast of a recorded court hearing in the U.S - a lawsuit taken against the U.S President by a group of cetaceans arguing that low frequency sonar was damaging their acoustic underwater environment. Interviews with the lawyer defending the cetaceans took place over two years. The producers’ goal was to combine factual reporting with creative narrative techniques as a way of re-invigorating environmental reporting.

Contribution
The explosion of online audio databases has expanded opportunities for radio journalists to radically re-think their approach to production and research material. This documentary embraced the online audio database in an attempt to explore new sources for in depth news reporting. Using creative techniques – both technical and editorial- listeners were asked to experience the acoustic world of cetaceans through identification with the narrator, a fictional ‘whale’ played by an indigenous Australian.

Significance
Digital delivery platforms and online databases for journalism necessarily affect the medium and format of journalistic research and production. Audiences expect new formats that engage and embrace technological change and creative innovative practice. Although this work took risks in the way it combined news and narrative techniques it was awarded a Silver World Medal in the New York Radio Festival (2006) in the environmental reporting category. This category includes scientific and environmental journalism of a high standard from across the world.

Links
Cetaceans vs Bush
Eurydice Aroney and Kirsty Lee (2006)
40 minute radio documentary for ABC Radio National Radio Eye Program

Winner of Silver World Medal at New York radio Festival

Related ABC news item
AFGHANISTAN

**BBC Afghan Education Projects; Kabul Afghanistan**
BBC World Service Trust - Afghan Education Projects
“New Home, New Life Eps. 1872”

**AUSTRALIA**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Brisbane, Queensland Australia**
Encounter: Australian Broadcasting Corporation “Intelligent Design”

**3AW; South Melbourne Australia**
“Beaconfield Mine: The Great Escape”

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Sydney Australia**
Australian Broadcasting Corporation “Snorty Meets the Red Army Choir”

**Eurydice Aroney; Sydney, NSW Australia**
Australian Broadcasting Corporation and University of Technology, Sydney
“Cetaceans vs Bush”

**ABC Radio National; Ultimo, NSW Sidney Australia**
ABC Radio National “A Wire Around the World”
“X-Ray”

**AUSTRIA**

**Krone Hit; Vienna Austria**
Kronehit - Austria “Station of Year”

**CANADA**

**Douglas Communications Inc.; Aurora Canada**
“John Lennon: Dreaming Of The Past”
“John Lennon: The Dream Never Dies”

**CBC; Edmonton Canada**
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation “Sharing the Wealth”
“What Happened To Punky?”

**Chum Radio Ottawa; Ottawa Canada**
93.9 BOB-FM “Bob Pays Your Bills”

**Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; Toronto Canada**
“A Red Rocket To The Old World”
“A Stones Throw”
“Cities Where Worlds Collide”
“Get With It - Wire Tap”
“Honeymoon In Dieppe”
“Inform, Impeach, Unite”
“Landslide World Wide Net”
“Subversive Radio: The Story Of The Investigator”
“The Cause Of Thunder”
“The Secret World Of Og”
“The Wire: The Impact Of Electricity On Music”
“Welcome Ricky Williams”
“What The Dene Tha Have To Tell Us - Trails End”
“Who Is Vern Nash?”
“World At Six In Shanghai”
“Year Of Disasters - 2005”