

years of television

Mr Macartney wanted the station on air a year later and it was Sir James' job to make sure it happened. There was no studio, no programs, no staff. Even the Bickley transmitter was yet to be built. They did it. Against the odds, and with far more enthusiasm and commitment than skill and experience, they did it.

Those who were part of the adventure, even in a small way, look back on the experience with pride and enormous affection. Their stories may be tall at times and their memories less sharp. Colleagues may remember an event very differently; names and dates tend to blur. At times, there is debate over who did what.

But what lingers is great pride that they were part of a rare adventure. And what lingers for those who watched those early pictures? Perhaps a memory of being part of history, of watching Rolf Harris sing Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport on the first edition of Spotlight, of the first episode of Leave it to Beaver. Of watching in awe, a day later, the grainy film of the assassination of John F. Kennedy or the Moon landing.

The world suddenly became smaller — or at least Perth was no longer so far away.

Those of us who have followed have had the chance to share world events as they happened — to laugh, to cry, to wonder. Not just with TVW, but first with TVW. We've welcomed videotape, the coaxial cable across the country, then satellites, digital pictures. Now we feel cheated if a moment of live sport is not available and expect to see monumental moments like the planes flying into the World Trade Center as they happen.

These are different television times. National networks have



been formed and the old-fashioned ways of making programs and putting them to air are long gone. Television today is a slick and efficient business, made so to cater for changing viewer tastes and the demands of competing mediums.

The first 50 years, celebrated and with memories well-loved, are gone . . . now for the future. 7

Above: TVW studios near completion at Tuart Hill.

Right: Test patterns.

