



ABC
Far North

To Jerry Berg
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Australian Broadcasting
Corporation

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Dear Jerry

Thank you so much for your kind letter of April 21 regarding our coverage of cyclone Monica. May I especially thank you for taking the trouble to send us a recording of the broadcast. We have had many hundreds of reception reports from all over the world, but there's nothing quite like hearing it for real. Your recording will be of great help to our transmission engineers who will use it to evaluate the performance of our transmitters.

I can confirm that you were hearing our local ABC Far North program, presented by Sharon Molloy, on the night cyclone Monica was crossing Cape York. It was a dreadful night here in Cairns, with torrential rain and rapidly rising rivers and creeks. Most of my staff could not go home as the access roads into many north Cairns beachside suburbs were underwater. The cyclone passed 400 kilometres north of us, but we got so much rain here I was beginning to think it would be Noah and the Ark all over again.

Like you, I am a keen shortwave listener. I worked for Radio Australia, our international shortwave service, for several years in the 90s, and worked in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific region, both great areas for shortwave listening. I often pick up US, Canadian and British shortwave stations from my home next to the Coral Sea.

ABC Far North is one of 64 ABC Local Radio services around Australia. We are a public broadcaster, funded by an allocation from the Australian Federal Government. We do not broadcast advertising, and we operate under a charter that has the force of Federal law. This requires us to preserve our editorial independence, and provide programs specifically relevant to the communities we serve.

ABC Far North covers 240,000 square kilometres at the top of north Queensland, and we use twelve AM or FM transmitters to cover the main centres (Cairns, Innisfail, Atherton, Mareeba, Cooktown) and the many small towns and remote cattle stations. We also reach the small island communities of Torres Strait, and can be heard in parts of Papua New Guinea and Indonesian controlled West Papua. The total population in our listening area is not known for certain, but our best guess is about 250,000.

We have a staff of eight full-timers and two part-timers, and we broadcast from 0500 to 1100 and 1600-1800 each weekday, as well as 0600-1000 on Saturdays. The remainder of the daily schedule involves us relaying state or national network programs from Brisbane or Sydney.

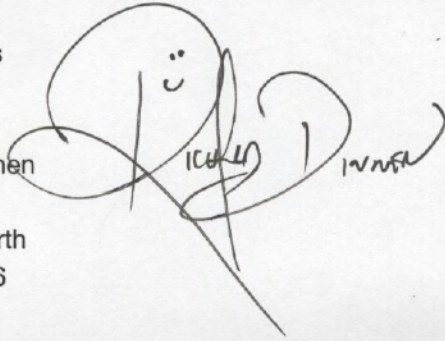
Monica was our second cyclone of the season. We had dealt with Larry just two weeks before, and Larry was one of the most powerful to make landfall in Australia since records began in the late 1700s.

We do not normally broadcast on shortwave. But during both cyclones, we lost local transmitters. Radio Australia made available some of its frequencies and our programs were relayed on shortwave, enabling us to be heard across the region from transmitters well out of the danger area.

You're obviously very committed to shortwave, with your book and service on CPRV. I am always inspired and encouraged by the commitment and fellowship of people in the shortwave radio scene. It is especially good to know that in this time of great fuss about the Internet, the original world wide web of shortwave is still strong and being heard by so many people.

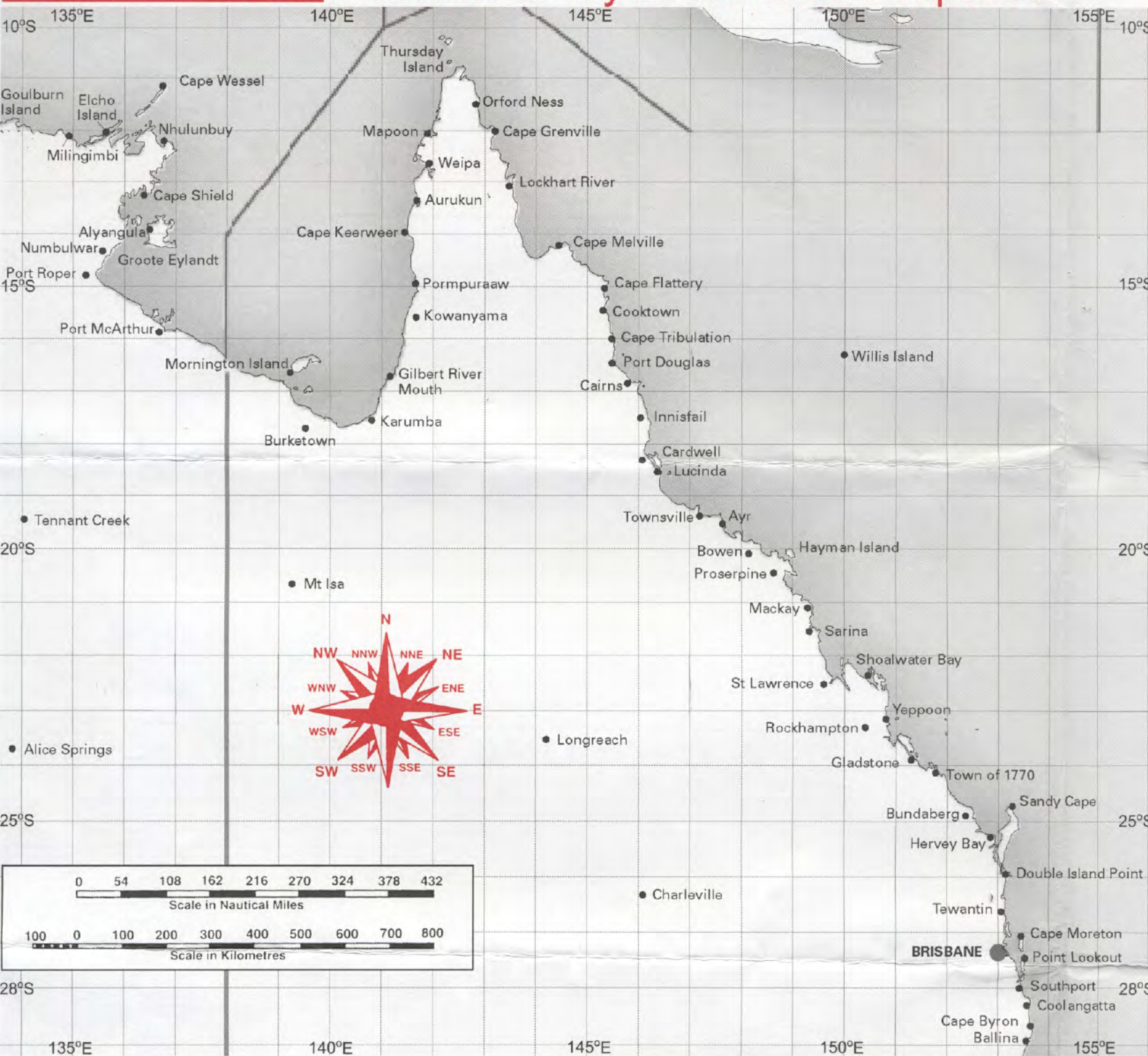
Kind regards

Richard Dinnen
Manager
ABC Far North
May 25 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Dinnen'. The signature is stylized and includes the call signs 'ICN 41' and '12NNSA' written below the main name.

CYCLONE TRACKING MAP

Monitor all Cyclones... Be Prepared!



Atherton.....	720AM	Mission Beach.....	89.3FM
Cairns/Tablelands/Innisfail.....	106.7FM	Mossman.....	639AM
Cairns/Northern Beaches.....	95.5FM	Mt Garnet/Mt Molloy.....	95.7FM
Coen.....	105.9FM	Torres Strait.....	1062AM
Cooktown.....	105.7FM	Tully.....	95.5FM
Dimbulah.....	91.7FM	Weipa.....	1044AM
Gordonvale.....	801AM		

Cyclone Storm Surge or Storm Tide

Caused by a combination of low pressure and cyclonic winds piling sea water up against a sloping coastal shelf, a storm surge or storm tide may produce tides 1-6 metres above the normal. The water floods inland over low-lying areas which are normally above tidal influence. These are rare, but they are a very great threat to life. Warnings are usually given as "abnormal" or "dangerously high" tides.

Bureau of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au

Tropical Cyclone Information..... 1300 659 212

EMERGENCY..... 000

ERGON ENERGY..... 132296

Loss of power all areas, all hours. To avoid jamming the telephone, only call in emergency situations.

Emergency Cyclone Kit

This should be prepared before the cyclone season and consists of:

- * Battery operated radio and spare batteries
- * Tinned food - enough for two or three days for everyone in the family.
- * Water containers - enough for two or three days for everyone in the family.
- * Torches, candles, matches
- * Essential clothing, including warm, waterproof protective clothing
- * Self contained cooking gear
- * First aid kit
- * Any essential medicines
- * If you have young children, include powdered milk.

Have your emergency kit ready, inside the house. Store all goods inside waterproof containers.

Cyclone Warning

When a cyclone is expected to affect the locality within 24 hours a cyclone warning is issued. Be prepared and follow instructions. Don't just trust your own judgement of the weather as the winds can increase suddenly. Tropical Cyclone Advice messages are issued every three hours, but when the storm is being tracked by radar and poses a severe danger, more frequent bulletins will be issued.

WHEN A CYCLONE WATCH IS ISSUED

Listen to your local ABC radio station. Check your property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins. Fill vehicle fuel tanks. Check your emergency kit and fill water containers. Ensure household members know which is the strongest part of the house and what to do in the event of a cyclone warning or an evacuation. Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.

Stay tuned to your local ABC for further information

ON WARNING OF LOCAL EVACUATION

Based on predicted wind speeds and storm surge heights, evacuation may be necessary. Official advice will be given on local radio regarding safe routes and when to move. Wear strong shoes (not thongs) and tough clothing for protection. Lock doors; turn off power, gas, and water; take your evacuation and emergency kits. If evacuating inland (out of town), take pets and leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards. If evacuating to a public shelter or higher location, follow police and State/Territory Emergency Services directions. If going to a public shelter, take bedding needs and books or games for children. Leave pets protected and with food and water.

emergency kits with you. If the building starts to break up, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets under a strong table or bench or hold onto a solid fixture, e.g. a water pipe. Beware the calm 'eye'. If the wind drops, don't assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from another direction. Wait for the official 'all clear'. If driving, stop (handbrake on and in gear) - but well away from the sea and clear of trees, power lines and streams. Stay in the vehicle.

WHEN A CYCLONE WARNING IS ISSUED

If requested by local authorities, collect children from school or childcare centre and go home. Park vehicles under solid shelter (hand brake on and in gear). Put wooden or plastic outdoor furniture in your pool or inside with other loose items. Close shutters or board-up or heavily tape all windows. Draw curtains and lock doors. Pack an evacuation kit of warm clothes, essential medications, baby formula, nappies, valuables, important papers, photos and mementos in waterproof bags to be taken with your emergency kit. Large/heavy valuables could be protected in a strong cupboard. Remain indoors (with your pets).

WHEN THE CYCLONE STRIKES

Disconnect all electrical appliances. Listen to ABC on your battery radio for updates. Stay inside and shelter (well clear of windows) in the strongest part of the building, i.e. cellar, internal hallway or bathroom. Keep evacuation and

AFTER THE CYCLONE

Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe. Check for gas leaks. Don't use electric appliances if wet. Listen to local ABC radio for official warnings and advice. If you have to evacuate, or did so earlier, don't return until advised. Use a recommended route and don't rush. Beware of damaged power lines, bridges, buildings, trees, and don't enter flood waters. Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Check/help neighbours instead.

Plotting Instructions

Listen to each Cyclone Advice issued by the Bureau's Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre. Jot down the details. Locate the cyclone using the numbered latitude (horizontal) and longitude (vertical) lines. Then use the scale to measure the distance of the cyclone from your location. The forecast movement of the cyclone can also be marked using the compass below and pasting it on a piece of card. Remove the centre portion. Place the centre of the compass over the cyclone position (plotted by you) making sure that the 'N' mark is pointing to the top of the page. Mark in the direction towards which the cyclone is moving as given in the warning.



ABC RADIO 4044 2000

Category	Strongest Gust (km/h)	Typical Effects (indicative only)
1 (Tropical Cyclone)	Less than 125 (Gales)	Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Craft may drag moorings.
2 (Tropical Cyclone)	125-169 (Destructive Winds)	Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small craft may break moorings.
3 (Severe Tropical Cyclone eg. Roma)	170-224 (Very destructive winds)	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failure likely.
4 (Severe Tropical Cyclone eg. Tracy)	225-279 (Very destructive winds)	Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
5 (Severe Tropical Cyclone eg. Vance)	More than 280 (Very destructive winds)	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.