

ETHNIC RADIO HAS THEM DANCING IN THE STREET

A burly Turkish truck driver turned on his radio, then leaped out of his truck and danced with excitement, holding up the traffic on a Sydney highway.

At a suburban post office 37 laughing and crying Greek women burst in, to the amazement of the postmaster.

These were just some of the delighted reactions to Australia's first ethnic radio stations which now broadcast daily for six hours in eight languages.

The Turkish truck driver and the Greek ladies were overcome at hearing their own songs in their own language.

The ladies just had to tell the local postman. The Turkish driver just had to dance to the Turkish music. Luckily the policeman who came to investigate was Italian, understood the driver's joy and didn't book him.

Three weeks after Radio 2EA opened in Sydney and two weeks after Radio 3EA in Melbourne began broadcasting, the licensees chair-

By JOAN MOONEY

man of Radio Ethnic Australia, Mr Jim Bayutti, described the experiment as "a resounding success."

Already 3000 letters have poured into 2EA's Sydney office and the switchboard has been jammed with congratulatory calls.

Budget

Radio Ethnic Australia (the brainchild of Mr Al Grassby) is working on a shoestring budget of \$50,000 allocated by the Federal Government.

Only two of its staff are salaried—the director of programs, Miss Claire Dunne, and a sound technician.



Mr Jim Bayutti

The rest are volunteers selected through the Migrant Task Force by the Good Neighbor Council.

The same staff commutes between Sydney and Melbourne.

The broadcasts are from 6.30 am to 8.30 am, from 12 noon to 2 pm, and from 7 pm to 9 pm.

The languages used, in rotation, are Italian, Greek, Spanish, Arabic, Yugoslav (Serbian and Croatian), Turkish, Maltese and (in Melbourne only) German.

Programs are non-political, non-sectarian and avoid controversy.

Music takes up 85 per cent of broadcast time,

sport 10 per cent and information 10 per cent.

Listeners are told of happenings in the countries they came from and given useful information on such Australian services as Medibank, taxation, legal aid, immunisation and kindergartens and schools.

"Forty per cent of ethnic group people don't speak English and stay-at-home mothers, especially, don't have a clue what's going on," Mr Bayutti said.

"The second generation learn English at school and don't have a problem, but many of the older generation are isolated by their lack of English."

Disagreed

Mr Bayutti disagreed that the ethnic broadcasts might encourage people to form a "Little Italy" or "Little Greece."

"By giving people information in their native language about Australia, they are more likely to integrate," he said.

Mr Bayutti stressed that 24 per cent of the Australian population was now of non-British extraction.

KURNELL PARK PLANNED

The National Parks Association of NSW has presented the State and Federal Governments with a proposal to establish a national nature reserve on Kurnell Peninsula. The 1430 hectare (3500 acre) park, to be called the James Cook National Park, would include Towra Point, the Captain Cook landing site, Boat Harbor Reserve, Wanda Reserve and an area of sandhills. The Minister for Lands and Forests, Mr Mason, is considering the proposal.