

AUSTRALIAN RADIO TRIVIA

Below are examples of extensive history and interesting trivia collected from a list of over 700 A.M. stations researched. For further details on each station, refer to the six State listings.

Radio Australia started as **3ME** in 1921. ** **3AW**, **3CS**, and **2GB** once banned all Beatles records. ** **3AR**, **3KZ**, **2HD**, **2UW**, **5KA**, **5AU**, and **4AT** were closed by the military for broadcasting alleged security breaches during WWII. ** **3UZ-3XY**, **5AN-5CL**, **2SM-2CH**, **3GL-3CS**, **6PR-6PM**, **7BU-7AD**, and **4BC-4BK**, experimented with stereo in 1958 (left and right audio on separate stations - listeners needed two radios). ** **3DB** rejected a job application from John Laws. ** **3BO** was the first to employ John Laws. ** **3AK** and **2SM** both claim to be the first to try talkback radio, but **2UE** and **3DB** were the first to legally broadcast talkback. ** **2BL** was previously **2SB**, and actually started as **2HP**. ** **2FC** broadcast an interview with Adolf Hitler in 1932. ** **2UE** started the original Top 40 charts in March 1958. ** **2BL** broadcast 7,094 episodes of "Blue Hills". ** **2UW** broadcast 2,276 episodes of "Dad and Dave". ** **2GB** planned to open **3GB**, **4GB**, **5GB**, **6GB**, and **7GB**. ** **2KY** was the first station in the world to broadcast Parliament. ** **2HD** opened with 12 records in their library. ** Moss Vale used to have its own commercial station (**2MV**). ** The studios of country stations **2GZ**, **2LE**, and **2KA** used to be in Sydney. ** **2WG** was once kept on air during flooding by an amateur operating his radio link to their transmitter. ** **2DU** was often put off the air due to flooding. ** **2CH** banned liquor and gambling advertisements, and any mention of the Melbourne Cup. ** **5DN** newsreader Murray Nicholl broadcast live his home burning down during the "Ash Wednesday" fires in 1983. ** The Australian Army was issued a broadcast licence for its Adelaide River camp (N.T.) which never went to air. ** Perth had a secret underground radio station in Nedlands to be used if invaded by the Japanese in WWII. ** **4WK** lost a grand piano when termites caused it to fall through the studio floor while being played live to air. ** **2BS** had the studio, transmitter, record library, and office in one room. The owner and his family lived in the second room. ** The **2KA** transmitter was wired with explosives during WWII in case the Japanese attacked. ** **4CM** conducted the first Australian TV experiments in 1929, which were later seen regularly in Melbourne. ** **2LM** was sold for 25 pounds. ** A **6KY** program called "Topless Radio" was banned by the censors. ** **3BA** was forced to give up its' security pistol, and **3XY** race caller Ken Howard had his binoculars seized for the war effort in WWII. ** The first F.M. experiments (mono) in Australia were in 1927 on 9 MHz. ** **4BH** was the first station in Australia to install a directional aerial, and **2SM** was the first to install an active aerial. ** **2UW** was the first to broadcast live shark and beach reports from an aeroplane, the first in the British Empire to broadcast 24 hours per day, relayed their broadcast of the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening to 23 stations, and the first station in the world to broadcast serials. ** **2UE** was the first to broadcast the 6 pips every hour (1939). ** **7EX** listeners raised enough money to buy a Spitfire fighter plane for the war effort in WWII. ** In 1938 **2KY** was closed for five days by the Federal Government for inciting labour unrest. ** Callsign **2XL** was issued to commercial stations in Lismore, Broken Hill, and Cooma. ** **2UE** was the first to experiment with transmitting still pictures, and newspapers took one year to mention their existence after they opened. ** **2VM** was the first A.M. regional station to be granted an F.M. licence. ** **3SR** created a record by airing 40 commercials in one hour. ** **4GR** was put off the air when a crop duster plane demolished their tower. ** **4BC** was the first to broadcast an Aboriginal corroboree. ** At one stage, **6KG** announcers also operated the Royal Flying Doctor Radio Base. ** **2FC** used 150 batteries to power a broadcast from a church. ** All the fish in the **2KA** reception aquarium died on the opening day of their Penrith studios. ** **7HT** once played "High Noon" by Frankie Laine continuously for 24 hours. ** While Billy Thorpe was interviewed on **3XY**, a man arrived with a shotgun demanding to see him. ** **7LA** was the first station to own an outside broadcast van. ** **3KZ** was first to broadcast news of the Japanese surrender. ** Commercial licences issued to **4CH** Charleville, **5MG** Mount Gambier, **5EP** Port Lincoln, **5MC** Adelaide, **2LE** Meadow Flat, **2SI** Singleton, **6XY** Perth, and **2NZ** Narrabri, never went to air. ** Radio towers at **6WA** (700 feet tall), **2LT**, **2LF**, **2RE** (3 times), **2KO**, **2QN**, **2WL**, **3TR**, **3YB**, **3CS**, **4EL**, **4GR**, **4BU**, **4BH**, **4AY**, **4HI**, **4LG**, **4QN**, **5UV**, **5RM**, **6MD**, and **7ZR** all collapsed. ** The first manager of **3XY** was Tom Holt; father of Prime Minister Harold Holt. ** Catholic station **2SM** banned the song "Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini", and the words "rape" and "pregnant" in their news. ** Melbourne had three pirate radio stations in the 1970s. ** **3LO** received news via Morse code from London. ** John Laws resigned after one shift at **2PK** due to a studio smoking ban. ** **3UZ** started with one microphone, one gramophone, and one pianola. ** **2CK** (Cessnock) closed after their studio was destroyed by fire for the third time. Other stations put off the air by fires included **6GE**, **4QN**, **2BE**, **2QN**, **2NI**, **3HA**, and **3DB**. ** **2GB** was the first in Australia to broadcast news on the hour, every hour, and the first to broadcast live on the internet (1998). ** **2XT** was a mobile station in a train, broadcasting from 100 N.S.W. rural towns. ** **2NI** (Norfolk Island) was operated by the telephone exchange operator. ** **7QT** sacked one announcer for only playing hillbilly records, and another for singing along with the records. ** Australian stations at our Antarctic bases include Radio **ICY**, Radio **COLD**, and Radio **BLIZZARD**. ** **6WF** opened with a 10,000 watt transmitter bought from Radio Luxembourg. ** A **5DN** application in 1929 to obtain Australia's first television licence was rejected. ** **5KA** experienced Australia's first announcers strike, caused by a flea infestation. ** In 1978, **2NZ** broadcast an appeal for one million green ants to make some anti-venom for a listener. ** **2BL** experimented with talkback programs in 1926. ** **2UW** had a relay station in Wagga Wagga (**2UX**) in 1927. ** **2WL** started with a homemade 50 watt transmitter. ** **AWA** forgot that they had been issued a licence for **2GF**. ** **2KM** enjoyed better reception on Lord Howe Island than in Kempsey. ** **3DB** relayed wildlife programs to stations in New Zealand and South Africa. ** **3KZ** once stated that television would never be introduced into Australia. ** **3AK** was only licensed to broadcast overnight until 1969, and banned all ABBA records. ** All the **3SR** equipment in their four studios were destroyed by an announcer. ** Hardened cactus needles were often used as record needles during WWII, due to steel being diverted for military usage. ** **3LO** commenced operations with all equipment powered by batteries. ** An unemployed **3DB** listener bought a half hour time slot to promote himself seeking work in 1932. ** **3UZ** fired 79 out of 84 staff in 1950. ** **8DN** took out a court injunction to prevent their sacked manager from entering the station. ** **3MP** was put off the air by their fire sprinkler system operating during their opening shift. ** **6WA** technicians were given rifles by the Army in WWII to defend the transmitter in case of attack. ** **6PM** sacked their Marketing Manager in 1989 for giving out too much cash in a competition. ** In 1933, **7LA** had fifty permanent landlines installed for outside broadcasts. ** **2FC** was issued with a second Sydney licence as **2FL** which never went to air. ** **2GZ** was issued a licence at Narrabri as **2IN** which never went to air. ** In the 1920s/1930s **2BL**, **2FC**, **2UW**, **3LO**, **3DB**, **3UZ**, **5AD**, and **6WF** also used shortwave transmitters to relay their programs. ** New owners of **6GE** and **6KG** ordered all Neon signs to be removed from outside their buildings. ** When **2UE** started, advertisements cost one shilling. ** **3LO** was issued with another Melbourne licence as **3FC** which never went to air. ** A **7HO** announcer was sacked for awarding a jackpot competition prize to his girlfriend. ** The **2KY** toilet, next to their production studio, couldn't be used during recordings, due to no sound proofing.