

# **BROADCASTING PIONEERS of AUSTRALIA**

## **NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Ernest Fisk:** Founder/Chairman of A.W.A. Conducted their first Sydney and Melbourne experiments of broadcasting music. Director of all A.W.A. stations. President of the W.I.A. (N.S.W.). Launched the first radio communications to Britain in 1918 (using 21 KHz.). Founded the W.I.A. Journal *Sea, Land, and Air*. Awarded a Knighthood.

**Charles MacLurcan:** Known as “Australia’s Leading Amateur”. Only Australian amateur licensed to operate during WW1. Owner of Australia’s first broadcasting (non-commercial) licence (**2CM** – licence number one in 1922), which was signed by Prime Minister Billy Hughes. Broke several long distance radio records. President of the W.I.A. after Ernest Fisk. Earned several Olympic medals. Manufactured and sold his MacLurcan receivers. (Callsign **2CM** is listed by the Federal Government as “**Never to be reissued**” in recognition of the pioneering achievements of Charles MacLurcan).

**Otto Sandell:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2UW**, which was later granted a commercial licence. He produced 200 Sandell radio sets each week from his **United Wireless** factory at Kings Cross.

**Joe Reed:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2JR**. Conducted joint experiments with **2CM**. Employed as an A.W.A. Engineer, P.M.G. Engineer, and first **2SB** Chief Engineer. Supervised the installation of commercial (later **A.B.C.**) station **2FC**. Designed, built, and installed A.W.A. 5,000 watt transmitters for several “A” class stations.

**Cecil Stevenson:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2IY**. Chief Engineer and Director of **2SB**. He built their first transmitter. Owner of **2UE** and the Radio House electrical shop. Known as the “Father of Commercial Radio”. Cecil’s son, Murray, was the first Chief Engineer of television station ATN-7.

**Ray Allsop:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2YG**. Held a Morse code transmitter licence when 13 years old in 1911. Later appointed Chief Engineer of **2BL** after Cecil Stevenson. He designed, built, and marketed Raycophone radio receivers 1930-1935. Ray invented the Raycophone system of playing film sound which was installed in 375 theatres by 1938. First person in Australia to push for F.M. First to demonstrate stereo using one transmitter (1938). Developed submarine detection radar for the navy in WWII. Member of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board. Awarded an O.B.E.

**Will MacLardy:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2HP** which became commercial station **2SB/2BL** with Will as first Managing Director. Founder of the *Wireless Weekly* magazine.

**Emil Voigt:** Built a station in Los Angeles, then financed and built **2KY** as their first Chairman and manager. Instigated the inquiry into “B” class stations, and won the A.W.A. patent battle. Founding Chairman of the Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations and President of the Radio Manufacturers Association.

**Oswald Mingay:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2XX**. First manager of Sydney commercial station **2BE**. He designed, built, and sold his Mingay radios, and wrote a regular radio column for the *Telegraph*. Oswald also started the Australian Radio College and the Institute of Radio Engineers, and published numerous radio periodicals.

**Jack Davis:** 15 year old owner of experimental broadcast licence **2DS**. Conducted joint experiments with **2CM** for A.W.A. transmitter development research. Jack later syndicated a program called “Church in the Wildwood” on **2CH**.

**Oswald Anderson:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **2ZH**. Oswald was later the first manager of commercial station **2FC**, then first manager of the Australian Broadcasting Company, then first manager of **2UW**.

## **VICTORIA**

**George Selby:** As a member of the London Institute of Electrical Engineers living in Caulfield, he instigated the first Morse transmissions in Victoria (June 1897) and probably the first in Australia. These were between himself and another civil engineer, Calder Oliver in Brighton. In 1936 Sir Ernest Fisk described these Melbourne experimenters as “*the first Australians in this field*”.

**Sidney Neuman:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **3ME** (forerunner of VK3ME on shortwave, which became Radio Australia). All programs started and ended with a kookaburra laugh. Victorian manager of A.W.A. Installed a 5,000 watt transmitter for **3LO** in 1925. Sidney also installed the original transmitters for **3SR**, **4QG**, and **7LA**.

**Ross Hull:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **3JU**. President of the W.I.A. in 1924. Editor of the *Wireless Weekly* magazine in 1929, and then editor of the *Radio and Hobbies* magazine. He built an experimental television transmitter and receiver. His television receiver killed him in by electrocution in 1938.

**Holst Brothers:** Owners of experimental broadcast licence **3BY**. Redesigned and rebuilt **3DB** in 1929. Designed, manufactured, marketed, and installed their own brand of renowned high quality transmitters and studio equipment.

**Oliver Nilsen:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **3UZ**. Later granted a commercial licence. Mayor of Melbourne. Known as “The Father of Radio” in Melbourne. Oliver managed his radio shop which included a standby studio for **3UZ**. He built the equipment for the start of **3WR** Wangaratta (first Australian regional commercial station).

**Donald McDonald:** Chief Engineer of **3AR**. He used the higher powered **3UZ** and **3DB** transmitters late each night in 1929 for television experiments (previously called ‘radiovision’). One transmitter was for sound and one for vision.

**Harry Fuller:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **3HF** which often broadcast soundtracks from a local cinema. Chief Engineer of commercial station **3SR** Shepparton, then manager and Chief Engineer of **3YB** Warrnambool. Designed and built the first wire recorder in Australia. Designed and built the first radio controlled gate in Australia.

**Morris Israel:** Morse code operator prior to WW1. During WW1 he monitored secret German military transmissions for our military. Owner of experimental broadcast licence **3ZN**. Installed all the original equipment for commercial stations **3GL** Geelong (1930) and **3AW** Melbourne (1932). He was the first Chief Engineer at both stations. His son, Rex, installed the equipment at GTV-9 TV and was their first Chief Engineer.

**Ronald Hipwell:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **3KU** in Swan Hill, which was relicensed as commercial station **3SH**. Also established commercial station **2BH** in Broken Hill and experimented with X-Rays.

**Lionel Hooke:** Victorian A.W.A. manager. Instigated A.W.A. broadcast experiments. President of A.W.A. after Fisk.

## **QUEENSLAND**

**Val McDowell:** Owner of the first experimental broadcast licence in Queensland (**4CM**). Experimented with X-Rays.

**Thomas Elliott:** Installed the **4CM** equipment. Australia's television pioneer (previously called 'radiovision'). Started in 1929, with daily transmissions from 1935 being received regularly in Melbourne. First television licence in Australia (issued in 1935 but cancelled in 1939 due to WWII security concerns). Thomas was also the first Chief Engineer of commercial station **4BC**.

**Charles Stevens:** Assisted Val McDowell and Thomas Elliott with the development and operation of **4CM**. Owner of experimental broadcast licence **4RG**. First Chief Engineer of commercial station **4QG**.

**Edward Gold:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **4EG**, which later became commercial station **4GR**. Second owner of commercial station **4VL**. Designed and built commercial station **4ZR**. With his nephew Cliff, he established experimental broadcast licence **4CG**. Edward's son, Geoff, was appointed Manager of commercial station **4MB**.

**John Chandler:** Owner of commercial stations **4BC** and **4RO**. Second owner of commercial station **4BH**. Assisted with the establishment of commercial stations **4MB**, **4AY**, **4AT**, **4GY**, and **4SB**. Owned a radio store assembling and selling his 'Gloria' radios. Awarded a Knighthood. Mayor of Brisbane and Member of Parliament.

**Steve Fittell:** Owner of experimental broadcasting licence **4JO**. Owner, manager, and Chief Engineer of commercial station **4GY**. Established the Australian branch of the Far East Broadcasting Company.

**Dahl Brothers (Norman and Syd):** Owners of experimental broadcast licences **4VT** Townsville and **4KA** Ayr. **4KA** was later licensed as commercial station **4AY** with Norman as Managing Director. He also planned the opening of **4AT**.

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Harry Kauper:** Held a Morse code licence from 1919. Owner of the first experimental broadcast licence in South Australia (**5BG**) which broke a world record by being heard in New York and throughout California in 1925. Designed, built, and sold crystal radio sets and kits from his radio shop. Part owner of commercial station **5DN**. Chief Engineer of commercial stations **5CL** and **5AD**, and a consultant to **3DB** and **2AD**. Designed and built the original 500 watt **5AD** transmitter. Co-designer (with Alfred Traeger) of the pedal two-way radio for emergency outback use.

**Lance Jones:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **5BQ**. Part owner of commercial station **5DN**, and their joint Chief Engineer. He built their first transmitter which was water cooled with 35 watts. Lance assisted the Wireless Institute of Australia with propagation tests using various antennas, transmitters and receivers.

**Millwood Auto and Radio Co.:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **5MA** on long wave (341 Khz.) with 250 watts. They operated as an A.W.A. retailer and repair shop. Issued with the first Adelaide commercial licence on 2-11-1923. They tried to sell the licence without success. This 3,000 watt licence never went to air. They closed their **5MA** station in late 1924.

**Hume Family (Hume Pipe Co.):** Part owners of **5DN** (situated in the Hume family house). Unsuccessfully applied for the first Australian television licence (previously called 'radiovision') in 1929. Stella Hume was reportedly the first female announcer in the world, and their Program Director and technical operator. Erne Hume was the joint Chief Engineer. Jack Hume designed, built, and installed the equipment for commercial station **5RM**, then became an announcer with **5KA**. They designed the 'Accord Four' receiver.

**Frank Miller:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **5BF**. Previously a signaller in WW1. Developed the teletype machine. He owned a radio shop, selling his own radios, and established the local Railways Radio Club. First Chief Engineer of **5MU** after designing, building, and installing all their equipment.

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Walter Coxon:** Conducted the first demonstration of speech and music broadcasts in Australia, at the Perth Royal show in 1918. Broke long distance Morse code records with Charles MacLurcan from **2CM**. Owner of the first experimental broadcast licence in Western Australia (**6AG**). Described as "The Father of Radio" in Western Australia. First Manager and Chief Engineer of commercial station **6WF**. Designed, built, and managed commercial station **6AM**. Established commercial stations **6ML** and **6BY**. Pioneered the technical work for the Royal Flying Doctor Radio Service in Western Australia. President of the Wireless Institute of Australia (W.A. branch). Designed the Mulgaphone radio receiver with 1,200 being built and sold by **6WF**, and conducted the first Australian stereo broadcast.

**Blake Horrocks:** (VK6GS). Developed a 30 line TV system which he could record on a 78 R.P.M. Phonovision disc in 1936. Later worked for the P.M.G. at the **6WF** transmitter, and developed the videophone system for the P.M.G.

**Harry Atkinson (VK6WZ):** Established and managed **6VA**. Managed **6WB**, **6KG**, and **6GE**. Editor of *Wireless News* in 1932, then *Wireless Weekly* in 1933. He was also a regular contributor to the *Broadcaster* magazine. Produced numerous programs for the A.B.C. Owned a record and radio shop. Harry was also Vice President of the Wireless Institute of Australia (Western Australian branch). He was legally blind with only 10% vision.

## **TASMANIA**

**Norman Cave:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **7BC** in Launceston. He was previously a radio operator for the R.A.F. in WW1. He designed and built the Willsonia receivers for Tas Radio P/L.

**Norman Findlay:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **7BN** in Launceston. Second owner of commercial stations **7HO** and **7AD**. Owner of commercial stations **7LA**, **7BU**, **7QT**, **7DY**, and **7SD**. Established commercial station **7UV**. Owned several record and radio shops, specialising in A.W.A. radios.

**Ron Hope:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **7RS**. Owner and Chief Engineer of commercial station **7HO**. Engineering consultant to the Findlay group of radio stations. Ron's bother, Lyndsay, owned experimental broadcast licence **7LA** in Launceston (no connection with the later commercial station of the same callsign).

**Arthur Smith:** Owner of experimental broadcast licence **7AB** in Hobart, and later, **7BN** in Launceston. Owner of Tas Radio P/L which launched the popular Willsonia receivers. Both stations advertised the Willsonia. **7BN** was later relicensed as commercial station **7LA**.