

AUSTRALIAN RADIO TIMELINES

- 1906** The first official Morse code transmission in Australia was conducted by the **Marconi** Company from Victoria to Tasmania.
- 1908** Ballarat inventor Henry Sutton demonstrated voice transmissions while contacting a U.S.A. naval fleet visiting Australia.
- 1910** The Wireless Institute of Australia (**W.I.A.**) is formed by Walter Hannam (the first Australian radio operator in Antarctica).
- 1912** A Government network of coastal and island Morse code stations was established for telegrams and shipping emergencies.
- 1913** Amalgamated Wireless Australasia (**A.W.A.**) was established by merging Marconi and Telefunken.
- 1918** The first experimental direct Morse code transmissions between England and Australia were conducted by **A.W.A.**
- 1918** The first public demonstrations of music and speech broadcasts in Australia were conducted over several days at the Perth Agricultural Show by licensed amateur operator Walter Coxon (later **6AG** and **6WF**).
- 1919** **A.W.A.** conducted their first demonstration of music and speech broadcasts to engineers in Sydney, hosted by Ernest **Fisk**. Coverage was 500 yards and lasted long enough to play the record "God Save the King".
- 1920** **A.W.A.** became Australia's first manufacturer of valves.
- 1922** **A.W.A.** applied for broadcasting licenses in all parts of Australia. All their applications were refused.
- 1922** Charles MacLurcan is issued with Australia's first broadcast licence, signed by Prime Minister Billy Hughes, for **2CM** Sydney.
- 1922** Thomas Edison (inventor of the phonograph) said "*The radio craze will soon fade*".
- 1922** The popular magazine "*Wireless Weekly*" was launched by Will MacLardy from **2HP** (which later became **2SB/2BL**).
- 1922** Valves were installed in **A.W.A.** radios for the first time, enabling loudspeakers to be used instead of headphones.
- 1923** **2FC** in Sydney (273 KHz.) is licensed as the first commercial station in the Southern Hemisphere (10-9-1923). However, **2SB** in Sydney (previously **2HP**, which changed to **2BL** in March 1924), was launched before **2FC** on 23-11-1923, using 857 KHz.
- 1924** **3WR** in Wangaratta is the first non-metropolitan station to be issued with a commercial licence.
- 1924** Grace Bros. department store in Sydney established the first retail outlet in Australia for selling receivers.
- 1924** **2CM** in Sydney (Australia's first fully licensed broadcast station) moved to short wave.
- 1925** Research in August indicated that 75% of listeners were using crystal sets.
- 1925** Numerous attempts were made to experiment using radio to transmit light, heat, power, refrigeration, cancer cures, and movies.
- 1925** **2UE** in Sydney was the first in Australia to experiment sending still pictures by radio to newspapers.
- 1925** **2XT** was launched as the world's first broadcasting station in a train. They broadcast weekly in different towns until 1927.
- 1926** **2BL** programs were relayed through shortwave station **2YG** to allow **2BL** to be heard throughout Eastern Australia and N.Z.
- 1926** **2UW** in Sydney was the first station in the world to broadcast serials. They didn't stop until 1964.
- 1926** **2BL** in Sydney was the first to try "Talk Back" radio. They soon realised the drawbacks of not being able to delay or edit calls.
- 1927** **A.W.A.** shortwave station **2ME** in Sydney was the first Australian station to experiment with F.M. (mono only on 9 MHz.).
- 1927** **A.W.A.** shortwave station **2ME** in Sydney relayed some **2FC** programs to medium wave stations in India, South Africa, Canada, United Kingdom, and the U.S.A.
- 1928** **6WF** in Perth became the only station to be operated by the Federal Government (for 10 months).
- 1928** **3UZ** programs were relayed through shortwave station **3LG** to allow **3UZ** to be heard throughout Victoria and Tasmania.
- 1929** **6WF** broadcast the first Australian stereo experiments by broadcasting a play using two microphones into two transmitters on different frequencies. Two receivers were needed to hear stereo.
- 1929** **4CM** in Brisbane was the first Australian station to experiment transmitting television (earlier called 'radiovision').
- 1929** The privately owned Australian Broadcasting Company completed the takeover of programming all twelve "A" class stations: **2FC**, **2BL**, **2NC**, **2CO**, **3AR**, **3LO**, **4QG**, **4RK**, **5CL**, **5CK**, **6WF**, **7ZL**, creating Australia's first programming radio network.
- 1929** **3DB** and **3KZ** cooperated by using their transmitters for television experiments (one transmitter for sound and one for vision).
- 1930** **2UW** Sydney formed the Federal Radio Network with nine other stations in five states, including **3DB**, **4BC**, **5AD**, and **6ML**.
- 1930** **Marconi**, by sending a radio signal from his yacht in Italy, turned on 2,800 lights around the Sydney Town Hall.
- 1930** The Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters was established (later Commercial Radio Australia).
- 1931** **3AK** in Melbourne, owned by the Akron Tyre Co., was the only applicant for a "C" class licence, which were for specific sponsor licenses (none were issued). Their application was rejected; however, they were eventually issued a "B" class licence.
- 1931** **2KY** in Sydney was the first station in the world to broadcast parliament.
- 1932** **3KZ** in Melbourne stated that "*Television will never be introduced into Australia*".
- 1932** The **A.B.C.** was established, taking over the twelve commercial "A" class stations previously programmed by the privately owned Australian Broadcasting Company.
- 1932** A proposal from Ernest Fisk at **A.W.A.** that all country stations use long wave instead of medium wave was considered.
- 1932** The first independent Australian radio survey was conducted in Sydney by Bill McNair (later McNair Anderson).
- 1933** **2GB** in Sydney was the first station to play transcription records and had the world's largest transcription library.
- 1933** The popular **A.B.C.** program the "Argonauts Club" was launched by **3LO** and went national in 1941 until closing in 1972.
- 1934** **3DB** in Melbourne had the largest record library in the world.
- 1934** Glebe Council in Sydney built a "Wireless House" in a park, relaying the **A.B.C.** for people who couldn't afford a receiver.
- 1935** Amateur radio **4CM** in Brisbane was granted the **first television licence in Australia** (closed in 1939 due to WWII).
- 1935** **2UW** in Sydney was the first station in the British Empire to broadcast 24 hours per day.
- 1935** The **A.B.C.** in Sydney installed a disc recorder, enabling the recording of programs for the first time.
- 1936** An undersea cable was installed across Bass Strait allowing radio programs to be relayed to Tasmanian stations.
- 1936** **A.W.A.** launched radio **9MI** with two studios on board the M/V Kanimbla. This station was used to relay some programs to **A.W.A.** network stations via a shortwave transmitter.
- 1937** The one millionth listener receiver licence was issued.
- 1938** The first demonstration of Australian stereo broadcasting using one transmitter was trialled by Ray Allsop from **2BL** on 9 MHz.
- 1938** The Major network, headed by **2UE**, and the Macquarie network headed by **2GB**, were established.
- 1938** **6PM** in Perth started Australia's first music chart with their "Top 8 Hit Parade".
- 1938** Ferris produced the first car radio designed and built in Australia; the Ferris Fultone 56.
- 1939** All television, amateur radio, and experimental broadcasting licences were cancelled due to WWII security concerns.
- 1939** The **A.B.C.** launched their periodical "*A.B.C. Weekly*".
- 1939** **2UE** in Sydney was the first Australian station to broadcast the six pips every hour.
- 1939** The periodical "Radio and Hobbies" (previously "Wireless Weekly") was launched.

- 1939 Radio Australia (“Australia Calling” until 1945) started with VLR (A.W.A. station **3ME**), and VLQ (A.W.A. station **2ME**) with A.B.C. programming in English, Spanish, French, and Dutch. All programs commenced with a kookaburra laughing.
- 1940 A secret underground station was installed in Perth to keep information flowing in case of attack during WWII.
- 1940 **2GB** in Sydney became the largest producer of radio drama programs in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 1941 **2HD**, **2UW**, **3AR**, **3KZ**, **4AT**, **5KA**, and **5AU** were closed by the military for airing security breaches during WWII.
- 1942 **2UW** broadcast the first nationally sponsored top rating serial “Big Sister”, five days a week for five years.
- 1942 The A.B.C. program “Kindergarten of the Air” was launched by **6WF** and went national in 1943 until moving to TV in 1965.
- 1942 Hector Crawford established Crawford Productions, specialising in radio serial transcriptions.
- 1944 The Australian Military open 29 radio stations in New Guinea and several Pacific islands during WWII to entertain our troops.
- 1944 “The Lawsons” (later “Blue Hills”) started on the A.B.C. with 7,094 episodes. It was Australia’s longest running radio serial until surpassed by “How Green Was My Cactus” which was still in production in 2018.
- 1944 **2BH** Broken Hill broadcast several WWII Relief Concerts which were also on shortwave via the Royal Flying Doctor Service.
- 1944 Grace Gibson established her radio production company, specialising in radio serial transcriptions.
- 1945 **5KA** Adelaide was the first Australian station to experience an announcers strike (caused by a flea infestation).
- 1946 A Government hearing recommended that television should start immediately and all A.M. stations be issued an F.M. licence.
- 1947 Commercial radio programming consisted of local live 32%, Australian records 64%, and U.K. and U.S.A. records 4%.
- 1948 Australia’s first Antarctica broadcasting station, **0HI**, is opened on Heard Island (moved to Mawson as **0MA** in 1955).
- 1948 The A.B.C. launched experimental F.M. stations in most capital cities on 92.1 MHz. They were all closed by 1958.
- 1948 The Australian Broadcasting Control Board is established to regulate broadcasting.
- 1951 The transistor (which led to Integrated Circuits) is invented, which revolutionised portable radios and other electronic devices.
- 1952 Most radio variety and drama programs were replaced by quiz programs compared by Bob Dyer and Jack Davey.
- 1956 Television was relaunched in Australia, causing an increase of music programs on radio, and a further decrease in radio serials.
- 1956 The A.B.C. opened news offices in London, New York, Singapore, and Port Moresby.
- 1956 The Periodical “Radio, Television and Hobbies” (previously “Radio and Hobbies”) was launched.
- 1957 **2GB** in Sydney is the first Australian station to broadcast news on the hour, every hour.
- 1957 A.W.A. produced Australia’s first transistor radio. It was called the “Transistor Seven”.
- 1957 A Government inquiry into the possible introduction of F.M. radio generates little interest.
- 1958 **2UE** in Sydney started the popular “Top 40 Charts” with “*April Love*” by Pat Boone as the first number one.
- 1958 **2CH/2SM**, **3UZ/3XY**, **3CS/3GL**, **4BK/4BC**, **5AN/5CL**, and **6PM/6PR** experimented with stereo by broadcasting the left and right channels on separate stations. Listeners needed two receivers to hear stereo.
- 1961 **2UV** in Sydney was issued with the first educational broadcast licence in Australia, operating on 1900 KHz.
- 1962 **2FC** in Sydney established a duplicate station at Emu Plains in case of a nuclear attack on Sydney during the cold war. Apart from late night testing from a Bathurst studio, it never went to air. The tower was in the Emu Plains prison until 2009.
- 1966 The periodical “Electronics Australia” (previously “Radio, Television and Hobbies”) was launched.
- 1967 **2UE** in Sydney and **3DB** in Melbourne were the first to legally broadcast “Talk Back” programs at midnight on the 17th April.
- 1972 A decision to introduce F.M. radio on the U.H.F. band was quickly changed to V.H.F. after intense industry lobbying.
- 1972 **5UV** in Adelaide was issued with the first community broadcasting licence in Australia.
- 1972 **2MBS** in Sydney was issued with the first fulltime F.M. broadcasting licence in Australia.
- 1973 The Australian music quota for commercial radio was 10% (12.5% in 1974, 15% in 1980, and 20% in 1986).
- 1974 The Federal Government abolished radio and television receiver licence fees which were used to fund the A.B.C.
- 1975 Ethnic radio stations **2EA** in Sydney and **3EA** in Melbourne (Ethnic Australia) were launched.
- 1975 **2JJ** in Sydney became the world’s first non-commercial 24 hour rock music station.
- 1975 Some stations started using satellites to relay their programs.
- 1976 The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal was established (previously the Australian Broadcasting Control Board).
- 1977 The Special Broadcasting Service (S.B.S.) was formed to take over **2EA** and **3EA** after the A.B.C. refused to.
- 1978 A.M. radio station frequencies were changed from 10 KHz. spacing to 9 KHz. spacing, creating twelve extra M.W. channels.
- 1978 **2WEB** in Burke became the first of a small number of A.M. stations to be issued with a three letter callsign.
- 1980 **3EON** in Melbourne was the first commercial station to be issued with an F.M. licence.
- 1982 **7RPH** in Hobart became the first Radio for the Print Handicapped station.
- 1985 A.M. radio stations were allowed to convert to stereo; however, A.M. stereo receivers were almost non-existent.
- 1986 **2GF** Grafton announcer Mike Summers broke the world record for the “*Longest Continuous Broadcast by One Announcer*”.
- 1990 The A.B.C. launched its’ Parliamentary Broadcast network (**2PB**, **3PB** etc.).
- 1990 **2VM** in Moree became the first A.M. regional station to be granted a supplementary F.M. licence.
- 1992 Programs were presented in 69 languages across Australian radio stations.
- 1992 The Australian Broadcasting Authority was established (previously the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal).
- 1993 Bruce Carty on **2CCC** broke the world record for the “*Longest Continuous Broadcast by One Announcer*” as recognised by the “Guinness Book of Records”. He achieved over 121 hours.
- 1994 The ABC Parliamentary Broadcasting Network went 24 hours with “News Radio” programs when Parliament wasn’t sitting.
- 1998 Some stations started relaying their programs live on the internet. **2GB** in Sydney was the first.
- 2002 Commercial Radio Australia was established (previously the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters).
- 2004 Australia had 107 AM and 150 FM commercial stations, plus 14 AM and 328 FM community stations.
- 2005 The Australian Communications and Media Authority was established (previously the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal).
- 2007 The M.W. band was extended to 1701 KHz. creating 11 more channels. However, few receivers covered the extra frequencies.
- 2009 Digital radio transmissions were introduced in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth, using the proposed but never activated 9A television channel (digital trials commenced in the following year in Canberra and Darwin).
- 2013 Commercial Radio Australia appoints GFK to replace Nielsen as their ratings research entity.
- 2013 The moving of all television stations from the F.M. band was finally completed, allowing more F.M. radio licenses to be issued.
- 2014 On 2nd November Alan Jones on **2GB** achieved his 100th consecutive ratings win. (His last **2GB** shift was 29th May 2020).
- 2015 **2GB** and **2UE** announced a forthcoming merger, with **2CH** to be sold. (**2CH** became an SEN outlet in September 2020).
- 2017 Ray Hadley stated “*when I leave this industry, it will owe me nothing, but I will owe it everything*”.