

ABC Radio warms up for summer

Thursday 8 December 2016

ABC Radio will launch its summer programming lineup this month with a range of new voices, some festive programming, and a welcome return to some familiar presenters.

“There is a terrific array of new and familiar voices on ABC Radio this summer” said Linda Bracken, ABC Radio’s Head of Content & Digital. “It’s great to introduce new talent from around Australia, and to give more established presenters opportunities in new spaces and timeslots.”

On ideas network **RN**, respected journalist and broadcaster [Hamish Macdonald](#) will be in the presenter’s chair at **Breakfast** from 12 December until Fran Kelly’s return on Monday 23 January, 2017.

Summer highlights on RN include RN presenters choosing [their favourite books](#) of 2016, for audiences to read this summertime. Listeners will hear these recommendations on RN Breakfast with Hamish throughout December and January.

From Monday 26 December, [Lorena Allam](#) will bring you four weeks of highlights from festivals throughout Australia over the past year in [Best of the Festivals](#). Listen live at 2pm, or whenever you like online or via the ABC Radio app.

And throughout Sundays in summer, RN audiences can wake up to Brian Cox and Robin Ince’s witty, irreverent look at the world through scientists’ eyes on [The Infinite Monkey Cage](#), at 7am on [Science Extra](#) with [Robyn Williams](#).

Christmas Day on RN will be hosted by [Noel Debien](#) and [Rachael Kohn](#).

On **ABC Classic FM**, [Russell Torrance](#) is already in the **Breakfast** chair while Phillip Sametz has a break until 10 January. ABC Classic FM continues to bring Sydney Festival’s classical music program to audiences all over the country in January, including all the excitement, fireworks and cannon blasts of an electrifying live broadcast direct from the 2017 Symphony In the Domain. From January 1, ABC Classic FM will bring audiences the Metropolitan Opera Season from New York featuring the best artists in the operatic world.

This summer **triple j** will be looking back at some of the biggest songs from 2016, as voting opens in [triple j’s Hottest 100](#). triple j will be playing heaps of new music, brought to audiences by its Summer Weekday line up of Stacy Gougoulis on Brekkie, Gemma Pike at Lunch, Declan Byrne in the Arvos, Nat Tencic on Nights and Bridget Hustwaite on Late Nights, while Ciaran Lyons, Karla Ranby, Luen Jacobs and Amberley Lobo take over Weekends. Plus there’s the best of Live At The Wireless sets

from 2016, including Hilltop Hoods, Flume, Urthboy, Daughter, Montaigne, Alison Wonderland and Violent Soho. House Party continues with some of the year's best mixes.

Double J will bring audiences the best music of the past year and everyone's favourite summer songs, as well as its annual NYE Ultimate Party Playlist, kicking off from 5pm AEDT on New Year's Eve.

National highlights on **ABC Local Radio** over the summer include:

Week commencing 12 December:

Well known and loved actor and writer William McInnes (*Seachange, Blue Heelers*) is a returning summer guest to ABC Radio and Regional, joining national audiences from Brisbane for a fortnight from 12 December, leading into Christmas and setting the scene for summer.

Satirist and all-round media personality Josh Zepps brings his sharp wit back from NYC to his home country to entertain us in the evenings. Just as network TV takes a turn for the boring, Josh is set to make it interesting on the radio right across the summer period.

The multi-talented [Liz Ellis](#) will return to ABC Radio for lively weekend mornings on Saturdays and Sundays until the middle of January.

Week commencing 19 December

After his three years as one of ABC's foreign correspondents in the US, we'll have the chance to get to know [Ben Knight](#) better each morning this week.

Whether you're on the road, enjoying backyard chaos, or just getting away from it all, **Christmas Day** on ABC Radio will be delightful company. A mix of specially produced stories, broadcasters from the city ([Tim Brunero](#)) and the country ([Warwick Long](#)) and reflection on the meaning of Christmas with [John Cleary](#).

Week Commencing 26 December

Mon-Fri Boxing Day Test

ABC Local Radio brings you ball-by-ball coverage of the biggest cricket match of the year as the Aussies take on Pakistan at the MCG.

You know him from The Chaser and triple j – [Chris Taylor](#) is great company on the radio, especially for listeners who would prefer something different to the Boxing Day Test. He'll return to the ABC Radio fold for just under two weeks.

Haute cuisine chef-turned-TV presenter (*River Cottage* on LifeStyle), [Paul West](#) turned his back on the big smoke and now lives in a coastal hamlet with his young family. Join West in this week's

Lunchtime Special: The Road Less Travelled as he explores big changes with other Australians who've tree- or sea-changed in this special summer series.

Taking a break from sister network RN, [Serpil Senelmis](#) will already be familiar to fans of ABC weekends on DAB+. She'll bring her playful side to the Afternoons program for a fortnight.

[Tim Brunero](#) brings his effervescent style and warm curiosity to our late afternoons hours – perfect for January.

New Year's Eve is an opportunity to pause and look back on the last 12 months, and ABC Radio will help do that with a range of wonderful NYE specials across the country. Then it will host a national NYE party from 11pm as it counts down to the New Year across the country's five time zones.

Week Commencing 2 January

Film buff, tech head and all-round funny dude [Marc Fennell](#) (*The Feed* on SBS, That Movie Guy on triple j) returns to ABC Radio for a summer stretch on Mornings. Guaranteed good listening.

Week Commencing 9 January

Wonderful [Myf Warhurst](#) (Double J, *Nice* on ABC TV) is a welcome summer sojourner on ABC Radio over summer. She's so nice that this week, she's sharing her Afternoon show with [Zan Rowe](#) (triple j). The pair will team up for a special hour of chat and music, a program-within-a-program.

Thank God it's Friday's resident improviser, comedian, voice-over artist, actor and lover of all things delightful [Rebecca de Unamuno](#) will open our ears to a relaxed Evening program this week.

Local teams will continue on **Breakfast** on ABC Local Radio all summer, other than on public holidays.

ABC Radio's summer podcast lineup will be announced next week.

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For additional details please contact: Louise Alley, Strategic Communications Manager, ABC Radio, alley.louise@abc.net.au, (02) 8333 2621 or 0422 348 652