

TRIPLE J PRESS RELEASE



You'll be hearing heaps of new voices on triple j in 2017

EMBARGOED UNTIL: 3.30pm Tuesday 22 November 2016

triple j is excited to introduce a brand new **triple j Breakfast team**, with Adelaide radio presenters **Ben & Liam** and journalist **Brooke Boney**, joined by regular guests 'Australian Paralympian of the Year' **Dylan Alcott** and comedian **Gen Fricker**, bringing you music, comedy, sport, news and current affairs in 2017.

Ollie Wards, triple j Content Director, says "Ben & Liam crack me up. They're 23 and 20 but come to the radio with thousands of hours on air together and crazy amounts of fun ideas. They'll be part of a broad new team, including an expanded News role with Brooke Boney, our voice of youth current affairs in the mornings. They'll also be joined by a wide cast of weekly contributors on the show including sports star Dylan Alcott and comedian Gen Fricker."

Psyched to get started, **Ben** says "Considering just two years ago I was listening to triple j from a tractor on a dairy farm, I'm super stoked to have the opportunity to host triple j breakfast with my mate Liam. Even if he does wear the skinniest drain pipe jeans I've ever seen."

Liam adds "We're both so unbelievably pumped to be joining triple j. It's a radio station like no other. In Year Two I was cast as a rock in the Easter play so I really didn't expect to be doing a national breakfast show at twenty."

Ben Harvey grew up in Lewiston on two and a half acres of South Australian country land. Leaving school at 16, Ben worked on a dairy farm doing all the things you'd expect, like milking cows, driving tractors, delivering calves and wearing flannel shirts. **Liam Stapleton** grew up in suburban South Australia where the passion to entertain came early, doing his first show on Adelaide community station Fresh 92.7 at 15. When Ben turned 18, the farm boy moved to the city and started volunteering at community radio and from there **Ben & Liam** began. Both fans of stand-up comedy, they worked their way up through the Adelaide scene, competing in the **South Australian Raw Comedy State Finals** and selling out *Ben & Liam's Big Night of Wiffy Banter* at **Adelaide Fringe**.

Brooke Boney will take on an extended news and analysis role on **triple j breakfast**, connecting the team to **Hack** and **ABC News**. Brooke is a Gamilaroi Gomeri woman who grew up in the Hunter Valley, before studying journalism at UTS and [volunteering at Koori Radio](#). She then did a stint in Canberra where she covered two election campaigns, multiple leadership spills and four Prime Ministers as SBS's NITV News political reporter. An accomplished journalist, Brooke is a rising star in **ABC News** and she brings that experience to **triple j breakfast**.

Beloved Newsreader **Ruby Jones** will continue to bring you regular updates on **triple j News** in the afternoons.

Dylan Alcott will present sports on **triple j Breakfast** on **Mon & Fri**, as well as bring you new tunes and music news as host of **Weekend Arvos, 2pm Sat & Sun**. The 25-year-old from Melbourne is famous for his ever expanding trophy cabinet, holding gold and silver Paralympic medals, as well as several US and Australian Wheelchair Open #1s. He's also a massive music fan famous for ['wheelchair crowd surfing' onto stage with Ghostface Killah](#), since becoming [personal friends with The Wu-Tang Clan](#).

We're sad to say it's a fond farewell to **Lewis McKirdy** as he heads over to the UK after six years hosting **triple j Lunch**. In his time at **triple j** he's built up a massive cult following, was one of the few triple j presenters to [interview a sitting Prime Minister](#) and made the popular [Friday Arvo DJ](#) set an essential weekend starter. For the last year, Lewi also hosted and produced **Mix Up**. A new **Mix Up** producer will be appointed soon.

We're stoked that comedian and current **Weekend Arvos** host, **Gen Fricker** will take over **triple j Lunch**, as well as make regular appearances on **triple j Breakfast**. On top of presenting music and comedy to the nation as one half of **Kyran & Gen** this year, Gen is also an in-demand comedian, selling out shows at the Melbourne, Perth and Sydney Comedy Festivals with her unique blend of dark musical experimentation and sassy stand up.

For more info, images and interviews contact:

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Our Queen of **Roots n All**, **Sarah Howells** finishes up at **triple j** after 11 years. Sarah has been a leading voice and genre specialist at the helm of the program, regularly hosting WOMADelaide, appearing at Bluesfest and passionately supporting artists like Dan Sultan, Liz Stringer, Kingfisha, Xavier Rudd, John Butler and heaps more. Sarah has been working at ABC Local Radio in QLD for the last six months, but will return to the triple j airwaves for one final [Roots n All](#) on **Mon 12 Dec**.

Filling in on **Roots n All** for the past six months has been lead singer of Melbourne band **Saskwatch**, **Nkechi Anele**, who now officially takes up the **Roots n All** reigns with her wealth of knowledge of the roots scene.

After six years of presenting **Weekend Breakfast**, **Weekend Afternoons** and regularly filling in on **triple j Breakfast** and **Drive**, we wish **Kyran Wheatley** the best as he leaves triple j to focus on his comedy and podcasting career. The presenter with the name everyone loves to get wrong (Korin Waitly, Skyrim Weetbix, Climbing Wheatleap etc.) was at the centre of one of the [greatest triple j pranks ever](#). He also won't forget retelling on air how his school friend's accidentally found out he was gay, by walking in on him in a compromising position, only to discover that his [long lost UK hook-up was listening](#).

triple j is super proud of the talent that comes through the station, often growing up alongside the listeners. Whether they're just starting out or heading off on a new adventure, we're honoured to play a part in their story and are looking forward to a bright 2017.

New voices on triple j from Monday 9 January 2017:

- triple j Breakfast with Ben Harvey, Liam Stapleton & Brooke Boney, with regular guests Dylan Alcott and Gen Fricker
- triple j Lunch with Gen Fricker
- triple j Roots n All with Nkechi Anele
- triple j Weekend Arvos with Dylan Alcott

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