



MEDIA RELEASE

ABC Central West celebrates 80 years of sharing local stories in the region with birthday party event

For immediate release
20 April 2017

ABC Central West this month clocks up 80 years of broadcasting across the region, celebrating the milestone with a community birthday party.

There will be plenty of fun and free activities at the ABC Central West studios in Orange from 9-11am on Saturday 29 April, including:

- See the Saturday team, Michael Croke and Reg Kidd, broadcasting live
- Tour the station and see behind the scenes
- Junior reporter news reading and colouring competition for kids
- Birthday cupcakes and official cake cutting
- Display of ABC Central West's past and present photos, plus vintage radios and broadcasting equipment
- Sign the ABC Central West special 80th birthday visitors' book

There will be opportunities to meet the ABC Central West team at the birthday party, and plenty of action across social media on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) #ABCCentralWest80

Known originally as "2 Central Regional (2CR)", ABC Central West began broadcasting on 29 April, 1937. It was the 21st station in the ABC's national network, and has become the home of local news and stories on radio AM 549.

ABC Central West's first broadcast was met with great public interest, with 400 people filling the Strand Palais on Summer Street to hear the first crackling hisses and sounds put to air. It was a successful event with an all-star cast and performances from Jim Davidson and the ABC Dance Band; The Singing Pierrots; tenor, Sydney MacEwan; and yodeller, Tex Morton.

In 2017, the station, which is part of the ABC's Regional Division, remains as relevant to local communities now as it was then.

Fiona Reynolds, Director ABC Regional said, "The ABC has a presence in 48 regional locations across Australia and its team members not only work in those communities – they are a part of them. This is especially so for the ABC Central West team, which has worked with the community for 80 years, sharing the region's stories and providing vital support, especially during times of emergency."

Acting ABC Central West Chief of Staff Nick Lowther added, "The past eight decades have seen tens of thousands of stories told from all corners of the Central West. From our radio beginnings in 1937, ABC Central West is still telling stories through the eyes of audience. It's a mighty achievement and one that belongs to the audience as much as our team."

For more information, visit www.abc.net.au/centralwest, or contact:

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