



For Immediate Release

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## ABC Radio WA's local schedule confirmed for 2018

Like a double shot of coffee, listeners to ABC Radio Perth will get an extra boost in 2018, when WA-born journalist Paula Kruger joins Peter Bell in the *Breakfast* studio from January 22. The new shared timeslot between 5am – 10am includes a half hour break for AM, presented by Sabra Lane at 8am.

Audiences will still get all of Peter Bell's breakfast radio benefits they've grown to love since October 2016, with the added input from Paula, who returns home to WA after 25 years working in South East Asia and eastern Australia.

ABC journalist and producer Nadia Mitsopoulos jumps behind the mic for a new program *Focus Perth* at 10am weekdays.

After more than eleven years presenting the morning shift on ABC Radio Perth, Geoff Hutchison has decided he'd like to set the alarm clock for slightly later and is moving across the day to present the *Drive* program in new timeslot of 4pm-6.30pm.

ABC Radio Perth also welcomes a new team to Saturday morning, with ABC producer and journalist Jamie Burnett and Charlotte Hamlyn from the ABC Perth newsroom joining forces to co-present the station's weekend kick starter from 6am-10am. Popular gardening talkback segment *Roots and Shoots* with Sabrina Hahn remains at 9am Saturdays.

ABC Radio Perth Manager Sarah Knight said

*I'm totally excited by the new look line up. Peter Bell has been rocking Breakfast and adding Paula to the line up is icing on the cake. She matches his sense of humour and will bring a strong pedigree of current affairs to the 8.30 timeslot. We've got a great opportunity with Nadia to really unpick the issues that affect us all in Perth. Myf Warhurst is a great get for ABC Radio Perth audiences and will bring music to the middle of the day. Gillian and Brad will make the kids pick-up a joy, and Geoff will bring us home with his trusted brand of journalism and good humour. On Saturdays Jamie and Charlotte will explore Perth and of course our favourite gardener is going nowhere. Very happy to say Sabrina is with us again in 2018.*

### ABC Radio Perth program schedule from January 22, 2018

#### Weekdays

5am – 6am	Peter Bell
6am -7.45am	Peter Bell and Paula Kruger
7.45am	ABC News then 'AM'
8.30am-9am	Peter Bell and Paula Kruger
9am -10am	Paula Kruger
10am – 11am	Focus Perth with Nadia Mitsopoulos
11am-12pm	Conversations with Richard Fidler/Sarah Kanowski
12-12.30pm	The World Today
12.30pm – 2pm	Myf Warhurst
2pm - 4pm	Gillian O'Shaughnessy
4pm - 6.30pm	Geoff Hutchison
6.30pm -7pm	PM
7pm-10pm	Nightlife with Philip Clarke



### Saturdays

Saturdays 6-10am Jamie Burnett and Charlotte Hamlyn

Saturdays 10am Sports Talk with Clint Wheeldon

Tune in via 720AM, DAB+ Digital Radio, online at [abc.net.au/perth](http://abc.net.au/perth) or the ABC listen App or follow the station @abcperth on facebook, twitter and instagram.

Leonie Harris, Regional Editor, WA said

*The introduction of the new national regional current affairs program at 6pm is a win for WA, as the program will be presented from this state.*

### **Regional WA program schedule from January 22, 2018**

#### Weekdays

5am – 6am	Peter Bell
6am -7.45am	Regional Breakfast
7.45	ABC News then 'AM'
8.30am-9am	Peter Bell and Paula Kruger
9am -10am	Paula Kruger
10am – 11am	Regional Mornings
11am-12pm	Conversations with Richard Fidler/Sarah Kanowski
12-1pm	The Country Hour WA with Belinda Varischetti
1-1.30pm	The World Today
1.30pm – 2pm	Myf Warhurst
3-4pm	Gillian O'Shaughnessy
4-6pm	Regional Drive with Barry Nicholls
6pm - 6.30pm	New Regional and Rural program (name TBA)
6.30pm - 7pm	PM
7pm - 10pm	Nightlife with Philip Clarke

#### Saturdays

6am – 9am	Regional Breakfast
9-10am	Jamie Burnett and Charlotte Hamlyn
10am	Sports Talk with Clint Wheeldon

WA Regional stations include ABC Great Southern (Albany), ABC South West (Bunbury), ABC Goldfields Esperance (Kalgoorlie, Esperance), ABC Kimberley (Broome, Kununurra), ABC Mid West and Wheatbelt (Geraldton) and ABC North West (Karratha).

For local analogue frequencies check the [ABC Reception advice line](#). [ABC Goldfields Esperance](#), [ABC Kimberley](#), [ABC North West](#) and [ABC South West](#) are all live streamed via the ABC listen app, with ABC Great Southern, ABC Mid West and Wheatbelt and ABC Esperance streams due to be available from mid-March 2018.

See the ABC Radio 2018 schedule announcement [here](#).

Presenter bio information on next page.

#### *For more information:*

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### Peter Bell

Born in Korea in 1976, Peter grew up in Kojonup, a sheep and wheat farming community in the lower south west of Western Australia. Sport occupied the majority of Peter's early life, which laid the foundation for a 14-year professional Australian Football League career.

Peter overcame a childhood injury to rise through the ranks of school football then WAFL. After a bumpy start with new AFL club Fremantle in 1995, Peter moved to North Melbourne the following year, going on to play in the 1996 and 1999 premiership teams. He returned to Fremantle in 2001 as captain, a position he held till his retirement in 2008. Peter was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame in 2015.

During his AFL career Peter completed a Bachelor of Laws at Melbourne University. His performance contrasted with his numerous honours on the football field. After nine years of mediocre academic grades, Peter's great regret as a scholar was falling one year short of qualifying for long service leave at university. Perhaps not surprisingly Peter's prospects of a legal career were quashed when on a summer clerkship the firm's managing Director discovered Peter asleep at the desk, using as a makeshift pillow the very case file he was instructed to review. Peter and the firm bid each other farewell.

Fortunately, football provided a backstop for Peter's economic survival until his retirement in 2008. Faced with 'life after football' Peter considered a career as a property developer before a combination of the global financial crisis and his own lack of aptitude led him to at various times consider an array of other pursuits. Drawn back to his passion, Peter was introduced to football broadcasting. This in turn led to the opportunity to present his own talk program on commercial radio for several years before moving to 720 ABC Perth in October 2016.

Peter considers himself blessed to have the support of an incredible family: wife Lana, a paediatrician, and three daughters Poppy, Ruby and Olivia. Aside from family, Peter's passions include music, reading, television and he wishes he had more time to enjoy cinema. Travel remains elusive but desired. Peter loves discovering Perth's burgeoning foodie scene and is fond of imbibing the occasional red wine at the appropriate time.

### Paula Kruger

Born in Subiaco in 1972, Paula grew up between Kalgoorlie and her mother's homeland of Fiji in the 70s. The family then moved to Perth and enjoyed the multi-cultural embrace of Leederville during the 1980s.

Paula graduated from the University of WA with a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 but soon realised she wasn't going to crack into journalism with a BA in History and Anthropology. Liberated with nothing to lose, she flew to Bangkok on a one-way ticket and began a four-year love affair with one of the world's most vibrant cities. She landed her first broadcasting job reading news on Thailand's state-owned radio. It was economic boom time in Bangkok and career opportunities soon followed in commercial radio and then reporting roles for international broadcasters keen to hear more news from Thailand, Burma and Cambodia.

However, the Asia Financial Crisis and a beckoning HECS debt saw her eventual return to Australia to pursue media opportunities in Sydney. After many wearing months of unemployment and underemployment, she landed her dream job as a cadet journalist with the ABC in 1999. Initially, she was a Sydney-based radio and TV reporter but soon moved to Canberra, working for local radio news and then in the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery. It was there she met her partner, press gallery photographer Mike Bowers.

The pair moved back to Sydney and in the ensuing years Paula worked as a reporter for ABC Radio Current Affairs, News Online Network Editor, National Editor of Radio News and Training Manager for News and Current Affairs. She was also Chief of Staff for ABC TV's *Hungry Beast* and a producer on *Kitchen Cabinet with Annabel Crabb*.

In 2017 she left the ABC and worked for WWF-Australia as Senior Manager of News and Public Affairs. It was her WA-based conservation colleagues who gave her a hankering to head west through their passion for the state's unique natural heritage.

2018 sees Paula return to Perth nearly 25 years after leaving for an Asia adventure. She returns with her partner Mike, their children Oscar, Ashla and a lovable disgrace of a dog, Otis.

"I'm delighted to be moving back to Perth and can't wait to introduce the family to my home town. We all know it is a beautiful place to live but fabulous people are the state's finest asset. I'm looking forward to seeing more of old friends and am especially excited about meeting many new ones."



### Nadia Mitsopoulos

Nadia has been a journalist for more than 25 years. She has spent most of that time working in various television newsrooms in Perth and London and has specialised in state politics.

She has been working on the Mornings program since she joined ABC Radio Perth in 2012.

She is also on the board of Lifeline WA and AWESOME Arts.

### Gillian O'Shaughnessy

Gillian started work at the ABC in 1996 in the newsroom as a cadet reporter and after 14 years of hard slog working across radio, television news and online, she clawed her way up the ladder to the highly-skilled position of radio newsreader.

That involved lots of reading aloud, and getting up early, but more importantly, keeping the coffee pot topped up.

Gillian was born in the South-West, in the port city of Bunbury where she spent way too much time in the sun, testing the surfboards her dad made. Most of the rest of her childhood she could be found hiding somewhere with a book.

She swapped one port city for another, when she moved with her mum and sister to Fremantle and fell in love with it. She studied theatre at John Curtin College of the Arts, and first encountered the ABC when she starred in a play for Radio National, in a sought after role as an excitable dog required to convey a variety of emotion via the medium of barking. She couldn't wait to return.

Gillian began a degree in psychology at Murdoch University, but swapped to communications, where she continued her radio studies. She hasn't shut up since. Working for the ABC was always the pinnacle of her ambition, so having reached the dizzy heights of that success early on in her career she's concentrated on mastering as many roles as she can before management realises she's being paid to have too much fun.

She's also the only one who can tolerate the acerbic wit of the Slim but Savage One.

Gillian has now lived in Fremantle most of her life furthering her passion for good food, good coffee, average to fine wine and the Fremantle Dockers. In 2010 she made the shift to ABC Radio Perth and you can hear her weekdays presenting [Afternoons](#).



### Geoff Hutchison

Almost 20 years to the day since he left Perth in search of new adventures, Geoff Hutchison came back home. Born in Subiaco, he grew up in Kalamunda and attended the local primary and high schools before embarking on a very short course of tertiary study at the University of WA.

After just six months, no girlfriends and an attack of Bell's Palsy, he applied for a cadetship at the Geraldton Guardian newspaper where, for a little over a year, he wrote insightful match reports at the footy and test drove cars he knew nothing about.

In 1982 he headed south to begin his television career with the Golden West Network in Bunbury, the highlight of which was his elevation to the position of late night news reader, where he wore a very nice beige jacket and spoke with large and very round vowels.

In 1983 Geoff tucked himself under the wing of Wally Foreman at Channel Nine in Perth and began a long career as a sports reporter. He stayed with Nine until 1986 when the call of Europe seemed a little more enticing than the upcoming America's Cup.

In the intervening 20 years Geoff worked for the Nine Network in London and in Los Angeles as a sports reporter and for a time as the Hollywood reporter on The Midday Show. During this period he appeared in the Robert Altman film The Player as an extra and completed an improvisational comedy course at the famous Groundling Theatre. Neither provided a single further opportunity.

He moved to Melbourne in 1991 where he was a reporter for Wide World of Sports, working primarily on Sports Sunday, winning many media awards but realising he was about 300 test wickets short of a hosting position. In 1998 he decided to broaden his journalistic horizons and joined the ABC as a senior reporter on the 7.30 Report. A Walkley award nominee in his first months, he continued with the programme until 2001 when he became the ABC's Europe correspondent for both television and radio, based in Brussels.

During this period he reported on a wide range of breaking news events including the 'War on Terror' which he covered from Jerusalem, Paris, Berlin and then Washington. He also reported for Foreign Correspondent on a range of issues from modern day Nazism in Germany to the existence of elves in Iceland. That European posting came to an end with the closure of the Brussels office in December 2003 and Geoff stayed with the 7.30 Report in Melbourne.

In 2005 he filled in for Jon Faine on the 774 ABC Melbourne Mornings programme. It was the opportunity which changed his professional life. Hosting a program became the life he loved and for the last few years, he's been delivering to the people of WA people the happenings of our state and beyond. The Morning Program, from 8.30am every weekday on ABC Radio Perth.

After 11.5 years on Mornings, Geoff will be moving to Drive and is excited to take the program in a new direction.

### Barry Nicholls

Barry Nicholls has been presenting the Regional WA Drive program daily since June 2008, after starting at the ABC five years earlier.

His work has appeared on AM, The World Today, PM and the 7: 30 Report. A former News Limited journalist and contributor to Fairfax, Barry's expose on Ben Cousins was voted by WA Today as its most-read story of the year in 2013, attracting 100,00 hits in the first four hours.

Barry began his career at the ABC in Alice Springs where he picked up several nominations of ABC Local Radio Awards and won Best Regional program for his Morning Show in 2009. He has presented National Summer programs as well as Radio Perth Breakfast, Mornings, Afternoon and Drive.

For five years Barry presented a digital show for ABC Grandstand about sports books, 110 Percent, that was regularly heard across the country. A keen writer about sports Barry has written six books, including the best-selling You Only Get One Innings: Family, Mates and the Wisdom of Cricket (ABC Books/ Harper Collins). He has also written for publications including Wisden Cricketers' Almanac, Inside Edge, Baggy Green, Cricket Lore and The Allrounder.



### Jamie Burnett

Jamie started his journalism career as a newspaper finance reporter, but an interest in broadcasting led him to study at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

It wasn't long before Jamie landed a job with ABC rural, filing reports for The Country Hour and presenting The South West Rural Report.

In 2009, he left WA for Sydney where he worked as a commercial radio reporter covering state politics, daily news and sport.

He soon returned to the ABC, presenting national Mornings on News Radio.

In 2013, Jamie returned home to Perth to take up a position as a reporter for WA Mornings on ABC Radio Perth.

Since then, Jamie has produced and presented every programme on the station.

The WA Media Award winner loves life in Perth where he indulges his passion for sport, live music, good food and friends.

But his favourite time is at the beach, with his wife Nat and their bulldog Hank.

You can get in touch with Jamie at [burnett.jamie@abc.net.au](mailto:burnett.jamie@abc.net.au) or follow him on twitter and instagram [@burnettjamie](https://www.instagram.com/burnettjamie)

### Charlotte Hamlyn

Charlotte Hamlyn's decade long journalism career has taken her to remote corners of Western Australia covering stories for ABC news and current affairs.

The reporter and television presenter got her start as a newspaper cadet after studying communications in Perth and the United States.

She's always on the hunt for a quirky angle, can coax the shyest and most reluctant of talent and find a pun in any given situation.

Charlotte's love of visual art and design is put to practical use on the board of not-for-profit cultural organisation FORM which advocates for excellence in creativity and artistic practice in Western Australia.

She joins ABC Radio Perth's team in 2018 as co-host of the Saturday Breakfast show.

### Clint Wheeldon

Clint Wheeldon worked out at a young age he was not skilful enough or durable enough to make it as a professional sportsman.

But his love of sport found an outlet in the media.

After spending more than a decade as a Sports reporter for a variety of Radio Stations, Channel Ten and the ABC, in 2007 he landed his dream job as a full-time commentator with ABC GRANDSTAND.

Clint's now called almost 500 games of Australian Rules Football at venues around the nation.

He's called the past two AFL Grand Finals for Grandstand – the first WA based ABC broadcaster to be given that honour.

He's also called Test Match Cricket, One Day Internationals and Big Bash finals.

He's covered two Olympics, Two Commonwealth Games and Two Paralympics.

He also calls A-League, Rugby Union, NRL and NBL.

On Television Clint presents Sport for ABC TV's National Early Edition News.

Clint's won several awards – Three times he's being named as Best Radio Caller at the Western Australia Football Media Guild awards and once as Best Television Caller.

He's also won the WACA's most outstanding radio broadcaster on five occasions and has twice picked up the WACA's highly prized Best Test match story.

But he still can't believe that talking about sport - which used to get him sent out of class in high school - is now paying his mortgage.