

ABC Local Radio announces lineup and presenter changes for 2017

Embargoed until 13:15 Wednesday 16 November 2016

ABC Local Radio has announced its content and presenter lineup for 2017 which will reinforce its ability to connect with local communities and introduce a cohesive national program offer.

Highlights of the 2017 lineup:

- Nightlife will move from a 5-day to a 7-day format
- Philip Clark and Sarah Macdonald to host the expanded Nightlife format
- Chris Bath will join the 702 Evenings team

Nightlife, ABC Radio's high-rating national nights program, will expand its offer from a five to a seven day format for capital city stations. Hosted by [Philip Clark](#) (Mon-Thurs) and [Sarah Macdonald](#) (Fri-Sun) the new format will extend its current thoughtful, conversational feature content to a more cohesive offer across the week, improving its flexibility to respond to changing news situations.

Judith Whelan, ABC Radio's Head of Spoken Content, said "It is fantastic to be able to extend **Nightlife's** weekday success. We're very pleased to continue its established format of thoughtful, appealing feature content across the whole week. Philip Clark has already shown himself to be a considerate and entertaining host whom audiences really value, and we're delighted to welcome him to the chair permanently.

"With the very talented and experienced Sarah Macdonald as our new weekend **Nightlife** host I am confident we'll have a diverse and balanced offering across the week which will respond to our audiences' need for topical, lively and engaging discussion across a wide range of issues."

Sunday Night with John Cleary will not return in 2017 following the **Nightlife's** move to the expanded format.

"John Cleary has contributed greatly to ABC Local Radio's religious content and to the ABC overall as a content maker and staff-elected Board Member" said Whelan. "He is a leading Australian commentator on religious affairs and his legacy will be a continued commitment to surprising, challenging and thoughtful discussion of religion and wider spiritual concerns on ABC Radio. We owe him significant thanks for 25 years of such wide-ranging and ground-breaking religious discussion."

Religious and spiritual content will continue to be addressed on **Nightlife** on Sunday nights in an ongoing, weekly segment addressing spirituality, religion and the quest for meaning in life. ABC Radio is also introducing a new weekly religion show **God Forbid** on Sundays on RN.

Saturday Night Country will no longer be heard on ABC Local Radio capital city stations. It will continue on ABC Local Regional stations and on DAB+ digital radio station ABC Country, as well as

being available online and via the ABC radio app. **Nightlife** will air on Regional stations Sunday-Friday.

ABC Radio Local Radio 2017 lineup changes:

Sydney

Respected journalist **Chris Bath** joins NSW / ACT Statewide Evenings on Monday-Thursday. ABC 702 Sydney manager Cath Dwyer said: "I'm so thrilled that Chris Bath will be joining the ABC next year. While she's well known for her work in television, Chris's work on 702 ABC Sydney this year has demonstrated her great talent for radio. She's got a sharp news sense, a great personality and a genuine interest in people, and we know our audience will welcome her back to the radio in 2017."

Current statewide Evenings host **Christine Anu** will move to present a new national Evenings show on Friday and Saturday.

Darwin

Two new presenters will join ABC Radio Darwin's weekend programs. Mikaela Simpson will present **Saturday Breakfast** (6am-7.45am). Until the return of Liz Trevaskis in mid-2017, Mikaela will also present Sunday Morning (10am-12pm), while Maree Yoelu will present **Saturday Mornings** (8.30-11am).

Presenter and lineup changes for ABC 612 Brisbane and ABC 666 Canberra will follow in the coming weeks.

There are no presenter or schedule changes for **ABC 891 Adelaide, ABC 774 Melbourne, ABC 936 Hobart** or **ABC 720 Perth**.

Full line-up releases will be available for all ABC Radio stations at the start of the 2017 program year.

ENDS

For more information, please contact: **Louise Alley, Strategic Communications Manager, ABC Radio on (02) 8333 2621 or 0422 348 652.**