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To:

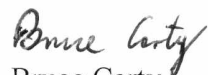
R.E.A.S.T.,
Tasmania.

Dear everyone,

Greetings. I am attempting to research the early development of A.M. broadcasting in Tasmania. When I started my research, it quickly became evident that we wouldn't have such an industry without the experimental licenses conducted by licensed amateur radio operators. I have, therefore, tried to include these amateurs in my research. I write in the hope that some of your members may have access to some historical or trivia notes on these stations. Any relevant information would be greatly appreciated. As several amateurs eventually became involved in licensed broadcast stations (e.g. first engineers) I would also appreciate any information that your members may have on these stations. To give you a better idea as to what I have researched so far, I have enclosed a draft copy. Once my research is completed, I will send you a final copy.

Thankyou.

Yours in nostalgia broadcasting.


Bruce Carty.

RADIO HISTORY of AUSTRALIA Part seven

The most comprehensive list ever compiled of early Australian A.M. broadcasting stations.

Early Tasmanian A.M. Radio Stations

7AA	Hobart	-1921	Experimental station owned by Trevor Watkins. Changed to 7DX after the P.M.G. commandeered the 7AA callsign.
7AB	Hobart	-1921	Experimental station owned by Arthur Smith, owner of Tas Radio P/L. Built 130 Willsonia radios, financed by Wills and Co. (see 7BN and 7QT). Closed in 1927 after the batteries powering his transmitter blew up. Arthur later designed and built the Sound On Film recording equipment for Cinesound.
7RS	Hobart		Experimental station owned by Ron S. Hope with a ten watt transmitter (see 7HO).
7LJ	Hobart		Experimental station owned by L. Jensen . Transmitter at New Town.
7BC	Burnie		Experimental station owned by Bruce C raw. This callsign was later reissued in Launceston.
7CS	Launceston		Experimental station owned by Cecil S cott. This callsign was later reissued in Hobart.
7	Hobart		Experimental station owned by George Bills-Thompson.
7AG	Hobart		Experimental station owned by J. C. Milne. Transmitter at Gretna. This callsign was later used by the P.M.G. to test the A.B.C. 7NT transmitter in July 1935.
7BP	Hobart		Experimental station owned by J. C. McMillan.
7JB	Hobart		Experimental station owned by J. C. B atchelor. Transmitter at West Hobart.
7CS	Hobart		Experimental station owned by A. C. S cott. Transmitter at Lindisfarne. Later moved to Sandy Bay. This callsign was previously issued in Launceston.
7JR	Launceston		Experimental station owned by T. C. Kitto, with a 15 watt transmitter.
7AS	Launceston		Experimental station owned by A.S. Gill.
7BC	Launceston		Experimental station owned by Norman Cave (previously a radio operator for the R.A.F. in WW1). Norman designed the Willsonia radios for Tas Radio P/L (see 7AB and 7BN). This callsign was previously issued in Burnie.
7BH	Launceston		Experimental station owned by E.C. Sheldrick.
7PF	Launceston		Experimental station owned by P.O. F ysh.
7CW	Hobart		Experimental station owned by Crosby W alch. Transmitter at Battery Point.
7WI	Launceston		Experimental station owned by Tasmanian Division of the W ireless I nstitute of Australia.
7LA	Launceston		Experimental station owned by O.A. Hope. This callsign was reissued on 13-12-1930 as a commercial license (see 7BN 1926).
7WR	Hobart		Experimental station owned by William Nicholas. Transmitter at North Hobart.
7ZL	Hobart	17-12-1924	Originally planned to open as 7AA , then 7AR . Owned by 3AR and started with the original 3AR 350 watt transmitter, (1,000 watts in 1927). Situated in one room in the "Mercury" newspaper office with a staff of one. Later a " <u>sealed set</u> " station above a fruit shop. Phone No. 5059. In October 1928 they broadcast an appeal for funds to purchase a radio for Hobart hospital patients, and moved into the old Hobart railway station. Operated by the privately owned Australian Broadcasting company from 14-12-1930 with 60 minutes of advertisements per day. On air 0730-0830, 1100-1400, 1500-1630, and 1800-2300. Broadcast live the opera "Maritana" from the Bush hotel in New Norfolk on 26-6-1932 (an aria was written at the Bush hotel). Their original "Reisz" microphone is on display at the "Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery". Taken over by the A.B.C. on 1-7-32 with 3,000 watts. All programs were live until a disc recorder was installed in their Sydney studios in 1935 (P.M.G. landlines from the mainland did not exist). Established their own orchestra with 11 players in 1936. Became 7RN in October 1990. Moved into a new, purpose built building in October 1997 with 7ZR .
7BQ	Launceston	28-01-1925	Experimental station owned by Leonard Crooks. On air each Sunday. Closed in 1939.
7BN	Launceston	-1926	Experimental station owned by Norman F indlay of Wills and Co. in an eight foot square room with only one piano and one microphone. Used to advertise radios and parts sold by Wills and Co., including the "Willsonia" radio, designed and built by Norman Cave (see 7BC) for Tas Radio P/L (see 7AB). Became commercial license 7LA on 13-12-1930.
7DR	Devonport	-1929	Experimental station owned by the Devonport R adio C lub. Actually licensed in 1924. On air each Sunday with 18 watts. Phone No. 20. Situated opposite the old wharf entrance

with a 100' tower and an antenna attached to the Tasmanian Woolgrowers Building. Heard throughout Australia.

7HO	Hobart	13-08-1930	License obtained by Ron Hope (see 7RS) who then sold it to the Findlay family (Findlay's electrical and radio store). Ron Hope stayed on as Chief Engineer. Started with three people and one room, housing the office, studio, and 50 watt transmitter built by Ron (200 watts in 1932, and 500 in 1937). Advertisements cost 1/6. Phone No. 7731. The only microphone was slid along a string between announcer, instrumentalist, singer, organ, and gramophone horn. Overseas news was taken from the B.B.C. via a short wave receiver. Listed as 2HO by the "Broadcast Business Year Book 1936". Criticised by the A.B.C. for 'copying' their "Hospital Half Hour" program in 1938 (also see 2UE 1925). Raised 5,000 pounds for the Red Cross, and organised volunteers to make 350 camouflage nets for the war effort in WW2. (Also see 7EX 5-2-1938). "Hobart's Original Station". Used a wire recorder to record church services. First Australian station to broadcast "Carols by Candlelight" (1949). Member of the Macquarie (2GB) network. Broadcast live from the Royal Hobart Show each year during the 1950s. Bob Rogers started his career here. In 1960, weather reports were live from the Bureau of Meteorology, conducted by meteorologists. A publicity stunt with two announcers racing two elephants down the main street in 1961, attracted 20,000 people. Known as "Personality Radio" in the 1970s. Col Joye and the Joy Boys were featured at their 1980 Golden Anniversary Ball. Moved to F.M. on 1-11-1990, with their A.M. frequency going to "Radio for the Print Handicapped" in 1991.
7LA	Launceston	13-12-1930	(See 7BN). Installed by A.W.A. in the Findlay building (later the T.A.A. building). Owned by the Findlay family (A.W.A. distributors), who wrongly believed they could cover all Tasmania on 50 watts (200 watts in 1932 and 500 in 1936). Phone No. 1486. Opened by the Post Master General, Joe Lyons. Sir Kingsford Smith was a special guest at the opening on his honeymoon. Known as "The Voice of Northern Tasmania". Their President was Ernest Fisk . On air 1200-1400 and 1730-2230. Used two towers 160' high located at Prospect. Their 1930s QSL card stated "Tasmania's Apples are World Renowned". Interviewed Lord Baden Powell in 1931. Their requested quote from the A.B.C. of one hundred pounds in 1932 to establish relay stations for 3AR and 3LO for five hours per day was rejected. Relayed several programs and New Zealand advertisements to New Zealand in 1934, as advertisements were banned on New Zealand radio stations. Chief Engineer, Rex McLean stayed for 50 years from 1936-1986. Their 1937 transmitter is in the Queen Victoria Museum. Member of the Macquarie (2GB) network. During the depression, they sponsored cheap entertainment with lunchtime concerts at the Princess Theatre. Their "Girls and Boys Club" had 11,000 members in 1946. Manager Val Sides invented the moving coil pickup for record players. Increased power to 2,000 watts in 1954 with a new transmitter at Riverside. Built the first outside broadcast van in Australia (a 1961 V.W. Kombi). Opened a relay studio at Georgetown on 10-6-1970. Known as "Funtastic Radio" in the 1970s. Increased power to 5,000 watts in the 1990s with a new transmitter at Rocherlea. Installed digital studios in 1997. Commenced F.M. broadcasting from Mount Barrow in 2007, but their A.M. transmitter was still on air in 2008 due to poor F.M. coverage.
7UV	Ulverstone	06-08-1932	"7UV - the personal touch". Phone No. 48. Installed by the Findlay family and owned by the Jehovah's Witness Sect. First located upstairs in the front of the Town Hall and then in the picture theatre. Bought by 3AK in 1933 and increased power to 300 watts. The studio microphone was powered by a large battery. The transmitter hut, located at Gawler, had one turntable and one microphone for use during studio failures. Often heard in the U.S.A. and Canada. Used two towers 200' apart. Relayed some programs from most Melbourne stations via a receiver, and the A.W.A. shortwave relay VK3ME. On air 0730-0900, 1730-1800, and 1930-2230. Moved to Devonport as 7AD on 9-3-1940, with new owners, the "Advocate" newspaper and the Findlay family.
7AG	Launceston	-07-1935	This callsign was used to test the 7NT transmitter. QSL cards are rare and highly prized. Also see 7AG Hobart.
7NT	Launceston	03-08-1935	A.B.C. Northern Tasmania . Their 7,000 watt transmitter was at Kelso. All the equipment was installed by the P.M.G. Opened by the Prime Minister Joe Lyons. Relayed 7ZL , with some local programs (first A.B.C. regional station to broadcast local programs). Also relayed some programs from Sydney and Melbourne via a short wave receiver until an undersea cable was installed in 1936. Employed journalists in Devonport and Burnie in 1959. Increased power in 1993. Moved to F.M. in 2006.
7BU	Burnie	19-10-1935	Started by the Findlay family with 50 watts above their radio shop. Phone No. 125. Originally planned to operate as 7WB . Renowned for the large number of live outside broadcasts. Their own staff designed and built their second transmitter in 1936 (200 watts). Known as "The Station with a Smile". Their "Sunshiners Children's Club" saw

hundreds of youngsters at the Burnie theatre each week from 1945-1958, and featured 'Peters Pals' and 'Ovalteenies' sponsorships. Shipping movements were broadcast daily to advise waterside workers where to report. Banned advertising on Sundays. Increased power to 500 watts in 1950 (2,000 in 1966). Their "Buy and Sell Corner" was their top rating program in the 1950s. Now has a relay transmitter at Smithton.

7HT	Hobart	19-04-1937	Phone No. 5083. Used two wooden masts 120' high with 250 watts (500 watts in 1938, and 1,000 in the 1950s). The transmitter hut included a bedroom for the technician. The bedroom also had a turntable and microphone for emergencies. Made their own turntables in the 1940s, due to WW2 supply restrictions. Owned a record shop downstairs. Listeners won a record from the shop if correct in identifying a song on a program called "Name That Tune". Member of the Major (2UE) network. Known as "The Heart of Hobart" in the 1960s, with manager Richard Vertigan, who used to be a script writer for Bob Dyer. Increased power to 5,000 watts in September 1969. Played "High Noon" by Frankie Laine continuously for 24 hours in 1983, when bought by TNT-9 TV and 7EX . Sold to the T.A.B. and 2NX as a sports station in July 1991. Wholly owned by the T.A.B. from December 1992. Relayed to 7EX from 8-1-1993. Moved to F.M. on 25-5-1998. Now known as "Heart 107.3".
7QT	Queenstown	29-05-1937	Also started with three people. Phone No. 124. Owned and operated by Stromberg Carlson (radio manufacturers), and the Findlay family/Wills and Co. (radio retailers). Their first studio was in the Paragon theatre. On air seven hours per day in three sessions. Often broadcast live from Wills and Co. promoting Stromberg Carlson radios. Eventually moved into a small demountable building. One announcer was fired for only playing hillbilly music, and another was fired for always singing along with the records. Bought by 2XL in 1982. Became 7XS on 1-10-1988.
7EX	Launceston	05-02-1938	Established by Denis Cousins in Charles Street and opened by the Prime Minister Joe Lyons. "On Top in Tasmania". Owned by the Examiner newspaper. Phone No. 1777. Raised enough money to buy a Spitfire fighter plane for the war effort during WW2. Also organised volunteers to make camouflage nets for the war effort. Member of the Major (2UE) network. Their annual Children's Christmas Fair raised thousands of pounds for crippled children. Moved to purpose built studios within the TNT-9 TV building in the early 1960s. Known as "The Good Guys Station" in the 1970s. Published a 'Carols by Candlelight' book and a cookery book. Bought 7HT in 1983. Launched a "Classic Hits" format in 1985. Sold to the T.A.B. and 2NX in July 1991 as 7TAB. Wholly owned by the T.A.B. from December 1992. All the staff were sacked on 8-1-1993, with the station going on relay from 7TAB in Hobart. Later bought by TNT-9 TV, and moved into their new TV building in May 1993. Moved to F.M. in 2007.
7DY	Derby	26-02-1938	Owned by Doug Charlton (see 8DN) and the Findlay family on 100 watts. Officially opened by the Premier, A.G. Ogilvie. Broadcast from studios in a farmhouse on a hill between Derby and Winnaleah. Moved to Scottsdale as 7SD on 26-7-1954 due to a bad local economy and falling population caused by closure of mines. A representation of the original studio and equipment are on display at the Derby Tin Mine Museum. See 7SD Scottsdale 26-7-1954.
7ZR	Hobart	22-06-1938	A.B.C. Originally planned to operate as 7HN (Hobart National). On air 12 hours per day. Used wind-up clockwork portable tape recorders in 1958 for recording outside interviews. Moved into a new, purpose built building on the site of the first Hobart railway station in October 1997, which was shared with 7ZL .
7AD	Devonport	09-03-1940	Phone No. 437. Originally 7UV Ulverstone (6-8-1932). Officially opened by the Premier, Robert Cosgrove, with programming by local artists. Owned by the " Advocate " newspaper. Later bought by the Findlay family. Shipping movements were broadcast daily to advise waterside workers where to report. Banned advertising on Sundays. Increased power to 2,000 watts in 1946. Their "Sunday Hymns and Choruses" request program remained popular for 33 years from 1947. Broadcast live from "The Warehouse" nightclub each Saturday night during the 1950s. Their slogan was "Better Music, and More of It".
7SD	Scottsdale	26-07-1954	See 7DY Derby 6-2-1938. Phone No. 32. Owned by the Findlay family. Officially opened by the Premier, with entertainment by local artists. Often heard in the Northern Territory and Hawaii. An application to move to Launceston was rejected, however, they did open an office there in 1984. Broadcast 'potato delivery' instructions to potato farmers daily. Banned advertising on Sundays. Increased power to 2,000 watts in 1962 with a directional antenna, then 5,000 watts in 1975 (then the strongest transmitter in Tasmania). Published a recipe book in 1972.
7QN	Queenstown	-09-1954	A.B.C. Relay of 7NT . Moved to F.M. in 1991.
7FG	Fingal	-01-1977	A.B.C. Relay of 7NT .

7SH St. Helens	-06-1977	A.B.C. Relay of 7NT .
7RPH Hobart	26-06-1982	Radio for the P rint H andicapped. First of the network of R.P.H. stations. Moved to the old 7HO frequency (846 KHz.) in 1991 after they moved to F.M.
7XS Queenstown	01-10-1988	See 7QT 29-5-1937. Now has relay transmitters at Rosebery and Strahan.
7PB Hobart	-08-1994	A.B.C. P arliamentary B roadcasters. When Parliament is not sitting, this station becomes a news service known as "News Radio".

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All care has been taken to ensure accuracy, however, no responsibility is accepted for any errors. Additional information and corrections are always welcome.

NOTE: Most publications recognise radio **2SB** (13-11-1923) as the first licensed broadcast station in Australia. This is not correct. The first licensed broadcast station in Australia was **2CM** Sydney in 1921, owned by Charles McLurcan. The license (number one) was even signed by the Prime Minister, Billy Hughes. The biggest advertiser on 2CM was Charles himself, advertising his own McLurcan radio receivers. Callsign 2CM is listed by the Federal Government as "*Never to be reissued*", in recognition of the pioneering achievements of Charles McLurcan. Numerous amateur operators were then issued experimental broadcast licenses. Several of these stations, which broadcast advertisements, including **2SB**, were later granted commercial license status. In addition, several licensed broadcast amateurs became the Chief Engineers of the early commercial and A.B.C. licenses. In order to recognise the valuable pioneer broadcasting efforts of these licensed broadcast amateurs, we acknowledge them in this listing. However, as this listing is of broadcast licenses, amateurs must have met the following criteria to be included:

- 1) Must have held an experimental broadcast license.
- 2) Must have broadcast on longwave and/or medium wave (not just shortwave).
- 3) Must have broadcast speech and music (not just morse code).

For the best in nostalgia broadcasting (1930s-1960s), listen to www.radioyesteryear.org.au

REFERENCES:

National Film and Sound Archives (N.F.S.A.) in Sydney and Canberra. www.nfsa.gov.au

Numerous Oral History recordings from the N.F.S.A.

Ron Churcher VK7RN.

Sound Preservation Association of Tasmania.

Dr. Adrian Peterson from Adventist World Radio.

Various local Historical Societies.

"The Magic Spark" by R.R. Walker (recommended reading by Radio Yesteryear, covering 1920s-1970s).

Rex MacLean (7LA) and other numerous ex radio station employees and their descendents.

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Tasmanian State Library, Hobart and Launceston.

Wikipedia.

Devonport community library.

A.B.C. Local Radio.

"If broadcasting stations are going to cater for religious bodies, punters, indifferent cooks, people who can't read, weather prophets, and other uninteresting subjects, they will all put us to sleep". - Letter to the Editor, 9-9-1927.

"I am sure there is a good deal of resentment amongst 7NT listeners. Their policy now seems to be to cut local programs at 9PM and

switch to Hobart where a program of rubbish is submitted". - Letter to the Editor "The Examiner" 13-6-1936.