

# Surf Vic Radio

Issue 75

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Victoria's only local newsletter with the latest radio news

## The New Age Is Coming - Digital Radio

Melbourne

This year marks the start of the Digital Radio age in Australia, something that has been already tried in various countries worldwide, and while taking notes on how well they perform, it was announced that Australia would take on the DAB+ platform, which is reportedly a better system than what the United Kingdom is currently on.

Trials have been taking place in Melbourne and Sydney last year; to see how the technical specifications actually work and to iron out any bugs, but the real test will be when the capital cities of Australia receive their first digital radio broadcast on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May

Last month, history was made when the first digital radio transmitters hit Sydney just weeks before Christmas, with Commercial Radio Australia currently working with Receiver Manufacturers on marketing the new technology when it arrives on the shelf

For Melbourne, the list of stations includes

3AW, 3MP, ABC Melbourne, Radio National, News Radio, ABC Classic FM, Fox FM, Gold 104, Magic 1278, Mix 101.1, Nova 100, SBS Radio, SEN, Triple J, Triple M and Vega

Additional channels to complement the new services are also tipped to be announced by each station before the launch

In the meantime, Community radio stations will initially have access to limited digital capacity in Melbourne, with a level of funding to support their initial infrastructure costs. The likes of Triple R, Triple Z, PBS, 3MBS, 3RPH, 3CR, 3KND, Syn and Light FM will be among this situation

In the meantime, expect to see advertisements for new DAB+ compatible receivers when they hit the shelves soon

## Temporary Licences & LPONs

Melbourne

Mt. Baranduda's 87.8 could be in for an auction if it's not renewed by the Info Radio Network on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February

Cristian Copaceanu has started the New Year with some auction wins, which were conducted before Christmas, snatching up the 87.6 licence in Camberwell for a record \$12,050, the highest in LPON history nationwide, meanwhile he also got the 87.6 licence in Caroline Springs for \$2,000 and then the 88.0 licence in Whittlesea with no competitor

Philip Smith adds to his Victorian list with the 87.8 licence in Mooropna along with 88.0 in Robinvale

The tiny town of Allansford will be holding the Grand Annual Sprint car Classic at the Premier Speedway on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, with a licence on 97.3 for the event

The Lawn Tennis Association of Australia is back for another year at the Australian Open, with AO Radio on 99.7 from the 16<sup>th</sup> of January until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February

## Gippsland's 1611 launch

Melbourne

It might not be Double X, but the sound is certainly familiar, with the Double X brand being introduced to Gippsland for the first time with the Traralgon 1611 licence, also with the 87.8 licence in East Sale

With the official launch already underway, the station has described itself as music orientated, with some sport to be thrown in as well, predicted to be some local leagues in various sports in the area

Meanwhile, Korumburra LPON Radio 80's on 87.6 is set to be off air when new Christian broadcasters, Faith FM arrive into town, currently Faith FM are yet to start up many of their transmission sites, or online streaming from their website

## News Radio Update

Melbourne

It's a New Year, and a new list of News Radio frequencies to be activated haven't been announced yet, with News Radio still saying that the Portland licence is still to be activated, without saying the frequency, which is 97.7 as previously stated in earlier editions of this newsletter. Meanwhile, Ballarat still waits, as Bendigo's situation hasn't moved since last year, and Geelong's push for a new ABC Local Radio station is still up in the air, with Pulse FM still due to move to 91.9, but not just yet

## Useless Information

Here's some useless information for you: GB Radio have been reportedly been heard in various places of Melbourne's North from Whittlesea to Kinglake, which means they're leasing off licences from someone else, or their 87.6 transmitter is overpowering

## Subscriptions

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