AUSTRALIAN RADIO HISTORY CONTROVERSIES

RADIO 2UE:
Popular belief, plus numerous publications, state that 2UE started as 2EU. **WRONG**. The original application did request the 2EU callsign (Electrical Utilities, owned by Cecil Stevenson). However, Cecil contacted the licensing authorities before going on air to change the callsign to 2UE. The original licence was then issued on 7-11-1924 and clearly states that the licensed callsign was 2UE.

RADIO 2SM:
It is generally accepted that the radio 2SM callsign (then owned by the Catholic Church) came from St. Mary's cathedral. **WRONG**. The callsign came from St. Mark's church at Drummoyne. This was the address on both their licence application and licence, and where their office, studio, and transmitter were located.

RADIO 2CM:
Most publications recognise 2SB, 23-11-1923, (later 2BL), as Australia's first licensed broadcast station. **WRONG**. However, they were Australia's first licenced COMMERCIAL broadcast station to go to air. The first Australian licensed BROADCAST station was 2CM in Sydney, owned by Charles MacLurcan. 2CM commenced operations on 1-12-1922 with licence number one signed by Prime Minister Billy Hughes. The Federal Government has decreed that callsign 2CM is not to be re-issued, in recognition of the pioneering broadcast achievements of Charles MacLurcan.

RADIO 4CM:
TCN-9 TV in Sydney, plus numerous publications have often mentioned that TCN-9 was Australia's first licensed television station. **WRONG**. Radio 4CM in Brisbane has this honour. They moved from radio to television transmission experiments in 1929, and then gave a demonstration of their equipment to Federal and State politicians on 6-5-1934. 4CM was then granted the first television licence in Australia. (Numerous broadcast licenses, including 4CM-TV, were cancelled in 1939 due to WWII security concerns).

RADIO 6WF:
Most publications recognise 1958 as the year of the first Australian stereo broadcast experiments. **WRONG**. In 1958 each capital city, and some country areas, did have two stations that cooperated by broadcasting the right and left channels individually. Listeners needed two radios to hear stereo. However, on 1-9-1929 the privately programmed 6WF in Perth broadcast Australia's first stereo experiments. Like most longwave stations in 1929, they moved to mediumwave. Before closing their long wave transmitter, they simulcast a live play with two microphones. One microphone was fed directly to their longwave transmitter and the other microphone went to their mediumwave transmitter. Therefore, as with the later 1958 experiments, listeners needed two radios to hear stereo.

RADIO 2BL:
Most publications recognise Garry Meadows (6PR), Mike Walsh (2SM), and Barry Jones (3DB) as being the first to legally try Talkback programming in 1967. **WRONG**. The then privately programmed 2BL in Sydney was the first, way back in 1926.

RADIO 6PM:
Popular belief states that 2UE Sydney in 1958 was the first to publish and broadcast a Hit Parade listing. **WRONG**. 2UE did launch their popular "Top 40" charts in 1958. However, the first Hit Parade listing was published by 6PM Perth in 1938 with their "Top 8 Hit Parade".

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY:
2UW Sydney is often credited as starting Australia's first radio network for joint programming. **WRONG**. 2UW did start the Federal Radio Network in 1930 with 2HD, 2AY, 3DB, 3BA, 3TR, 4BC, 4GR, 5AD, and 6ML. However, the privately owned Australian Broadcasting Company (not A.B.C.) was first when they had taken over the programming of all twelve pre A.B.C. stations by 1929.

RADIO 6AG:
Most publications recognise AWA station 2ME in Sydney (5-9-1927) as the first licensed shortwave broadcasting station in Australia. **WRONG**. In 1925 Walter Coxon, the Chief Engineer of then commercial station 6WF in Perth, relayed 6WF programs through his licensed 200 watt shortwave broadcast station 6AG. The aim was to allow 6WF to be heard throughout all of Western Australia.

1920s BROADCAST TRANSMITTER LICENSES;
Numerous publications mention that there were 900 broadcast TRANSMITTER licenses issued in the early 1920s. **WRONG**. There were 900 APPARATUS licenses issued. Only 266 of these were broadcast TRANSMITTER licenses, and each is listed in the book "*Australian Radio History*". The remainder were experimental broadcast RECEIVER licenses, which were then a legal requirement for anyone involved in receiver development.

FIRST PUBLIC BROADCAST EXPERIMENTS:
AWA is often credited with the first public Australian broadcast experiments. **WRONG**. AWA did give a demonstration of broadcasting to Sydney engineers in 1919, and to Melbourne Politicians in 1920. Both broadcasts lasted long enough to play the record "God Save the King" covering 500 yards. However, the first public Australian broadcast was at the Perth Agricultural Show in 1918. Walter Coxon (later 6AG and 6WF) demonstrated speech and music broadcasts daily, from one side of the show to the other.

THOMAS EDISON:
In 1922 Thomas Edison (inventor of the phonograph) stated that "*The Radio Craze Will Soon Fade*". **WRONG**.

RADIO 3KZ:
In 1932 a 3KZ Melbourne executive stated that "*Television Will Never Be Introduced Into Australia*". **WRONG**.

RADIO 2ME:
The A.B.C. is often credited with launching the first experimental F.M. broadcasts in Australia. **WRONG**. It is correct that the A.B.C. launched experimental F.M. stations in most capital cities on 92.1 MHz. in 1948 (they were all closed by 1958). However, the first public F.M. experiments in Australia were by A.W.A. station 2ME in Sydney in 1927 (mono only on 9 MHz.).

RADIO 2BL:
Most publications credit 2BL Sydney (1-3-1924) as having started as 2SB (23-11-1923). **WRONG**. 2BL was started in 1922 as 2HP by Will MacLardy (founder of the "Wireless Weekly" periodical), before changing their callsign to 2SB in 1923, then 2BL in 1924.

RADIO 2UE:
2UE often promoted themselves as "*First in Sydney*". **WRONG.** They were the fifth fully licensed Sydney broadcasting station.