

MEDIA RELEASE



ARN SECURES CHRISTIAN O'CONNELL FOR MELBOURNE'S GOLD 104.3 IN RADIO COUP

2nd February 2018 - ARN are excited to announce international radio star **Christian O'Connell** is moving to Melbourne to join the Pure Gold network, hosting **GOLD 104.3 Breakfast in 2018**.

Christian's appointment is a huge coup for ARN. In a world first, ARN will bring a highly successful **international show to Australia**, demonstrating its commitment to innovation, in the delivery of the **highest quality radio content to audiences**.

One of the most awarded radio stars in the world, Christian is best known as the host of the **Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show** on Absolute Radio in the UK. The youngest ever inductee into the UK's Radio Academy Hall of Fame and winner of more Radio Academy Awards than any other person, Christian is also a successful stand-up comedian, author and TV presenter.

When looking at the opportunity to move to Australia, **Christian O'Connell** said he and his young family specifically chose **Melbourne** as the city they wanted to settle in.



"The chance to move to Melbourne was an opportunity just too good to pass up because, well, who wouldn't want to move to the world's most liveable city? My family and I chose Melbourne for the lifestyle, comedy and arts culture, and, obviously, the coffee. And the wine. Did I mention the wine? And I've also heard you get a bit more of

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something called 'the sun'. The decision to leave the UK has been the hardest of my life, but we can't wait to start this new adventure," Christian said.

"Radio is my life, and I'm excited to bring my Breakfast show to Gold104.3, Melbourne's strongest music station. I've always seen being on radio in the morning as a great privilege - to be someone's mate in the morning - and I'm looking forward to bringing something fresh and new to listeners to help them kick off their day. "

Of this new appointment, **ARN's National Content Director Duncan Campbell** said, "ARN is committed to creating the future of audio entertainment, with radio at the core, and having talent the calibre of Christian O'Connell on our network is key to our strategy.

"Christian's radio show is like nothing Melbourne has heard before and this change is a bold, progressive move for ARN and the entire local industry.

"His sense of fun, relatable humour and quick wit will be perfect for GOLD 104.3 and Christian is regarded as being one of the best interviewers around with his radio show known for great guests including his mates Ricky Gervais, Chris Martin from Coldplay, Liam Gallagher and U2. Even the hard to please Jeremy Clarkson said "he does the best interviews in the world".

"Christian joins us from Absolute Radio where, during his time with the station, he doubled his audience becoming one of the most loved broadcasters in the UK. He has also won more radio awards than any other broadcaster, and has pioneered a unique Breakfast show format. Christian has created and performed three sold-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Festival, is an author – including two children's books, was a columnist for *The Guardian* and in addition to these elements, he is an incredible storyteller.

"In 2018 we have injected fresh, new personalities and energy into our stations across Australia with three other new shows, complementing the already successful #1FM and #2FM shows across our network. Announcing Christian's new Breakfast show for Melbourne's GOLD 104.3 is the final piece in our national content strategy, and is a key part of ARN's wider strategy to re-energise our offering to Melbourne and to the Pure Gold network overall."

More details about Christian O'Connell's Melbourne Breakfast show on GOLD 104.3 will be announced over the coming weeks.

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About ARN

ARN is one of the leading broadcasters in the country with ownership or investments in 12 radio stations nationwide. Its network brands KIIS and Pure Gold, along with iHeartRadio and The Edge, entertain and influence over four million listeners across Australia.

Its KIIS network consists of Sydney's KIIS 1065 with Kyle & Jackie O, Melbourne's KIIS 101.1 with Jase & PJ, Adelaide's Mix102.3 with Jodie & Soda, Brisbane's 97.3FM with Bianca, Terry & Bob and Perth's 96FM with Paul & Lise. The National Drive Show across all stations is Will & Woody.

Its Pure Gold network consists of Sydney's WS FM101.7 with Jonesy & Amanda, Melbourne's GOLD104.3, Brisbane's 4KQ with Laurel, Gary & Mark and Adelaide's Cruise 1323 with John Dean.

The Edge is available on FM as The Edge 96.ONE in Sydney and nationally via iHeartRadio and DAB+. The Edge Breakfast hosts are Mike E & Emma.

ARN also launched iHeartRadio, the world's fastest growing digital service, to the Australian market in 2013 and the platform has had over 1,541,000 downloads of the app. iHeartRadio is a free, all-in-one radio, music streaming, entertainment and live events platform. In addition to being able to access their favourite music from around the globe, audiences can access their favourite stations in Australia from ARN, the ABC, SBS and Fairfax, as well as stations from New Zealand and the USA.

ARN is a HT&E company.