

Travails with my Aunty

David Salter (keynote speaker at FABC State Conference)



It is with no pride whatsoever that I claim the individual record for total number of resignations and/or sackings from the

ABC. Since 1967 I've had to clean my desk out six times (and that's not counting all those silly relocations caused by the Corporation's unrelenting mania for 'structural review'). So much for civil service job security.

Why then do I remain such an ABC loyalist and Defender of the Public Broadcasting Faith? Because the alternatives are too horrible to contemplate.

Somehow, in the peculiar broadcasting landscape of Australia, the ABC has managed to maintain its genuinely independent national voice. Somehow, despite the best efforts of sour politicians and incompetent managers, it has found the courage to provide a platform for discomfiting ideas and disconcerting tastes.

At its best, the ABC is the gristle amongst all the pre-masticated pap that passes for 'content' in this country's electronic media.

But let's not waste time celebrating that achievement. The more constructive approach is to pause and consider the positive lessons of history: what can we extract from the ABC's past to help us secure and enhance its future?

This should not be an exercise in

"good old days" nostalgia. I've been in, or around, the Commission or Corporation for more than half its 76 years and can assure you that many of those 'old' days were deplorable. Aunty endured ultra-conservative management and timorous boards; ultra-cautious program heads; ultra-Anglophile cultural attitudes; many ultra-wasteful, negative or just plain lazy permanent staff.

Dig out the tapes of ABC radio's so-called Golden Era in the early 1950s and you'd be aghast at the smug mediocrity they broadcast. The prevailing value-systems came directly from the prefect's rooms of second-rate private boys' schools. Literature was anything published by Angus & Robertson's.

Yet despite all this tenured self-indulgence, the ABC's most valued asset – its core notion of independence – was defended with vigour.

Charles Moses rightly treated politicians with disdain and usually ignored their attempts at pressure. Richard Boyer understood that protecting the editorial integrity of the ABC's output was the Board's primary function.

After a few years tied to radio's apron strings, the new and uniquely powerful mass medium of television was allowed to find its own feet. By the early 1970s Channel 2 was setting the local information and entertainment agendas for the nation. The ABC made programs because producers felt there was an obligation – or need – to do so, not to

satisfy the latest PC obsession or to poach a few rating points from the commercial networks.

Content is what the ABC has always done best. It has been at its strongest when it concentrates on the primary job of making and broadcasting programs for its established outlets. Everything else – the doomed Pay TV venture, Australia Television, its recurring multi-channel ambitions, occasional secret plots to engulf SBS, even the highly successful Internet presence – all of these are potentially dangerous distractions.

Dangerous, because they inevitably involve seeking additional funding from governments quick to impose conditions on that extra cash. Distracting, because the diversion of people and resources into these adventurist excursions always weakens

(Continued on Page 3)

inside

The President's Report	2
The Electronic Generation Gap	4
Branch News	5
A Conversation with Henri Szeps	8
News is good for ABC	10
Summer Heights High Success Story	10
Logie Awards	11
Map of the future for Australia and the ABC	11
The Gruen Transfer. How it all adds up	12
Letter from Senator Conroy	13
New Teeth for Aunty - Reinvigorating the National Broadcaster. Part 1	14

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Who to write...

Anyone seeking basic information about writing to persons of influence might find it helpful to go to the FABC NSW website www.fabc.org.au where there are some menu items under "Be Active" leading to pages of information: *Who can I write to?* *What can I say?*

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A word from the NSW President



It is now over six months since the election of the Rudd Labor government, and many are asking what the change of government has meant for the ABC. Disappointment has been expressed that there were not immediate changes to the board, reinstatement of the staff-elected director and increases in funding. A letter from Senator Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communication and the Digital Economy (reproduced elsewhere in this edition of Update) to the Mid North Coast branch of Friends of the ABC provides some of the answers, in which he reiterates the government's policies of:

- commitment to adequate funding on a triennial basis
- commitment to the independence of the ABC
- introduction of a new process for board appointments
- appointments to the board based on merit
- restoration of the staff-elected director.

There was no increase in funding to the ABC in the 2008 budget, but it had been made clear by the Prime Minister that priority for funding in this budget would be given to pre-election promises, and there were none relating to the ABC. On the other hand, there were no cuts to ABC funding, as were suffered by most other government-funded instrumentalities. The critical budget for the ABC will be the triennium commencing in 2009. Friends of the ABC will most certainly be holding the government to its commitment to "adequate funding on a triennial basis." The Prime Minister has also made it clear that changes to the ABC will follow due and proper process, and all current board members will serve out their full term, no matter how inappropriate their appointment by the Howard government may have been.

2008 STATE CONFERENCE of FRIENDS of the ABC.

High on the agenda of this year's NSW FABC State Conference, to be held in Wollongong on 9th and 10th August, will be discussion and a sharing of ideas and strategies to convince the government and local members of the absolute necessity to increase funding to the ABC in the 2009 budget in order that the ABC can fulfil the requirements of its charter, including at least 120 hours of locally produced drama (the minimum required of the commercial networks).

Minister Conroy believes that the ABC must provide more opportunity for Australian voices to tell Australian stories – we must ensure that the funds are provided to do so. Other items for discussion will include concerns at "commercialism by stealth", how Friends of the ABC can improve its message delivery to both the public and politicians and compete with professional lobbyists, and better represent the voices of the younger ABC audience.

ABC Managing Director Mark Scott will address the conference on "The National Broadcaster in the Digital Future." Australia will soon be living in a fully digital media age – the range of media choices for audiences will be abundant and the media experience itself is profoundly changing. How will the ABC retain its relevance in such a world? Mark Scott will talk about the ABC's obligation as a public institution to reach more Australians, in more ways, more often.

He will discuss the Corporation's plans for its increasingly fragmented audience whose expectations have been shaped by traditional media, and how the Corporation is realigning itself for future ABC audiences – the next generation of Australians who, through ease and familiarity with online and mobile digital media, have very different expectations and make very different demands on their media.

REPORTED CLOSURE OR SALE OF ABC SHOPS

I am assured by the ABC that there are no plans either to close or the sell ABC Shops. Apparently the press reports, including the rumoured sale to Dymocks, are totally erroneous.

A spokesperson for the ABC responded "Why would we dispose of something that brings in so much revenue, and provides such good publicity for ABC programs?" Why indeed!

DIGITAL RADIO BROADCAST

The ABC will commence digital radio services in the first half of 2009. Initially the digital services will be for capital cities only, and will include the four existing national networks (Radio National, Newsradio, Classic FM and Triple J) as well as local radio services.

Extension of the digital network will depend on funds becoming available in future budgets.

There is no plan for digital radio to replace analogue radio (AM and FM) – broadcasting will continue in both – but you will need to purchase a digital radio to receive the digital signal.

THE GRUEN TRANSFER

Promotional advertisements for this new satirical program on ABC TV were so convincing that they created a flood of complaints to the ABC that advertising of commercial products had, by some means, been suddenly introduced to the public broadcaster! The program itself has been the subject of criticism that it unnecessarily promotes or provides exposure to advertising. It has proved very successful in terms of ratings for the ABC, but, as is suggested by David Salter elsewhere in this edition of Update, it may be treading a fine line between satire and providing advertising professionals with an opportunity to promote their products. You make your own judgement, but let the ABC know what you think.

Mal Hewitt

President, NSW FABC 

Travails with my Aunty

(Continued from Page 1)

the corporation's commitment to mainstream broadcasting.

So, always be wary of hucksters proclaiming the ABC will be fatally marginalised unless it 'migrates its content' to broadband and embraces every new wave of technology. Remember that each step towards the holy grail of multi-platform communications is also a step away from the fundamentals of independent public broadcasting.

How else should we interpret the Corporation's recent decision to establish a mega-division titled "ABC Commercial"? How's that for an aggressive challenge to the central principle that a genuinely independent media outlet cannot, by definition, operate commercially – that is, for profit?

The astonishing thing, at least to me, is that these massive changes were allowed to happen virtually without demur. Australia has been so de-sensitized by the strident private enterprise culture of our previous Federal government that we seem quite unconcerned that "our" ABC – one of the world's last great public broadcasters – is swiftly being turned into a merchandising business.

Today, the ABC is run by a breed of executive who openly demand more bang for their buck – a sly way of saying they're chasing ratings, without actually saying it.

The inevitable result is that popularity becomes more highly valued than intrinsic quality. Production values are traded away for quick effect. Intellectually difficult or confronting content now tends to be avoided in favour of easy entertainment. For example, *The Gruen Transfer* is not, as it pretends to be, a program about advertising – it's a panel show for advertising wankers to parade their cleverness.


To me, this is not so much a "dumbing down" as an "evening out". The search for broader audiences means that the bulk of

current ABC programming exudes a bland, respectable sameness and timidity. It's pitched at the middle of the statistical bell curve – the area that contains the greatest number of ears and eyeballs. Those of us whose interests and tastes stray to the five percent fringes must settle for Radio National.

Who's to blame for this capitulation to populism? To my mind the real villains are to be found in the neo-con commentariat. All our most prominent cultural warriors of the right took their turn peddling the specious argument that because the ABC is funded from taxation revenue then it should broadcast material that appeals to the widest possible audience.

That position has more logical holes than a slice of Swiss cheese, but it grips the simple minds of politicians. Weak-kneed senior ABC managers who would do anything to avoid a fight with Canberra then adopt this false doctrine of audience accountability and use it as their justification for seeking popularity first, and quality second.

What they cannot – or refuse – to understand is that there is no point in the ABC trying to attract a broad mainstream audience. The commercial networks are already doing that very well. The national broadcaster should, of course, be happy to welcome anyone to its services, but it must never feel under an obligation to go out and chase them.

DAVID SALTER first joined the ABC as part of the original *This Day Tonight* team. He has been a senior producer in Current Affairs, Head of TV Sport, Executive Producer of Media Watch and produced, written and directed a number of significant ABC-TV documentaries. As an independent he made the *This Fabulous Century* historical series for the Seven Network, was General Manager of the Hanna-Barbera studios and ran TV sport for both Nine and Seven. Two of his recent books are *Breaking Ranks* (Random House), an investigation of the HMAS Voyager disaster, and *The Media We Deserve* (Melbourne University Publishing), a critical review of the Australian media. For two years Salter wrote the 'Beyond Spin' column for *The Australian* and is now Editor-in-Chief of a soon-to-be-launched national news magazine, *The Week*. 



The Electronic Generation Gap

Jess Harwood

We are always told that us young people have short attention spans. But maybe the reality is that old people's attention spans are way too long? I wonder as I teach my parents to use the internet, who is more attuned to the modern media age? Sitting at the computer, showing my old man how to navigate around an internet site, we may as well be looking at two different screens. Dad reads logically from the top as one would a newspaper, unassumingly making his way down the screen in an exasperatingly slow manner which is



maddening. I want to cut to the chase and find the sought-after hyperlink which I guessed would be in the footnotes. A couple of clicks later and with much grumbling (about me going too fast) we arrive at our cyber destination. These intergenerational web-lessons are a source of confusion and frustration for all, but they do show a marked difference in the way in which we interact with the media.

It's the years of chatting on msn, watching television, listening to the radio, writing school or uni essays, reading textbooks, texting and taking phone-calls simultaneously that have fine-tuned youthful brains to multitasking, expecting rapid change

and immediacy, and being discriminatory about what information we want to draw from the media. This is why the internet has become the medium of choice for young people when it comes to research and entertainment. At times it feels like it has eclipsed the more traditional forms of the media, specifically the television and radio with regard to the ABC. However, these old fashioned media formats do continue to be relevant and enjoyed by all generations although they are increasingly accessed through the newest addition to the modern media, the internet. This does beg the question of whether future development of the ABC should be focused in the virtual arena, especially for the benefit of younger audiences.

Recent changes to the ABC including the introduction of ABC 2 (and therefore of the digital age), and upgrading of the website have expanded the ABC's scope, and also made it more interactive by providing a larger range of choice and new online services. Many popular ABC TV shows are downloadable, as are podcasts of radio programmes which can be listened to on our mp3's and computers, and if they aren't available then transcripts are posted on the radio station's website. The new ABC NOW service condenses this, allowing viewers to select their favourite programmes, news items and updates to be downloaded to their desktop daily. Clearly the ABC cannot be accused of being outdated and technologically

Dinner with Robyn Williams

Friday 15 August
at Cellos Restaurant
in the Castlereagh
Boutique Hotel

After last year's wonderful dinner with Monica Attard, join us again for a special evening.

We expect this will be very popular so ring in early to book. There are a max. of 130 seats available.

Venue: Cellos Restaurant in the beautiful, heritage-listed Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. Opened in 1927, Cello's Restaurant is now one of the last grand dining rooms in Sydney. It can hold up to 130 people.

Date: 15 August

Time: 7pm

Dinner: 2 courses + glass of wine (or soft drink). Set menu with ONE free drink included (either wine or soft drink)

Cost: \$55

Address: 169 – 171 Castlereagh St, Sydney – see www.thecastlereagh.com.au

To book: Ring Ireen (Ph: 9745 4487) or Joy (Ph:9502 2335) or Paul (Ph: 9888 3797)


Please provide information as follows:

- how many seats you need
- name + credit card details (only Visa and Mastercard please)
- vegetarian or gluten free (you will need to identify yourself to staff & FABC staff members on the night)

We need to pay well in advance to hold such a large and popular dining room.

irrelevant- in fact it should be applauded for throwing itself into the cyber age. However the development in this new arena does bring potential problems and possibilities in capturing the younger age group.

During the election in 2007, ABC Online's Unleashed ran a competition called 'Sledge' which encouraged ABC viewers to create their own Chaser-style video or animated commentary on the election. This was overwhelmingly popular with young ABC audiences as it encouraged creativity, was interactive and provided a much yearned for platform for voters to voice their opinions. To do this, the ABC sought to create and use its own YouTube Channel. This was a slightly controversial move (although the controversy went largely undiscussed) because of YouTube's reliance on advertisements, therefore the ABC providing a tenuous link to commercial content by using such a channel. This controversy notwithstanding, young people's addiction to YouTube only served to increase the popularity of this competition. The use of the ABC's YouTube channel has dwindled since this competition and while we don't want, under any circumstances, advertisements creeping into the ABC or commercial content being linked with ABC websites, the YouTube channel should be discussed as a powerful medium of broadcasting to younger audiences. Of course we would have to weigh up whether this would be a risk worth taking.

The ABC has to face many tough decisions about where the future lies in cyber land and needs to avoid accidentally dabbling in the internet's ubiquitous commercial culture. More emphasis and focus on ABC online would be appreciated by younger media consumers, however we should also understand that this is not a general rule: more internet, more young people. While my Dad and I may view websites differently, information provided, the ultimate secret lies in the content and not in the format. You could make the Reader's Digest History of Accountancy colourful, funky and interactive and it would still be just as uninteresting to a teenager as volume ten of the leather bound edition. There are no prescriptive quick fixes to the problem of catering for teenage and young adult audiences- we're a discerning and complicated lot! 

Branch News

Blue Mountains Activity

On Saturday, 17th May 2008, the Friends of the ABC (Blue Mountains Branch) hosted a wonderful morning where the renowned Radio National Breakfast presenter, Fran Kelly, addressed more than 150 people and talked for two hours about her experiences at the ABC



Fran Kelly

Fran talked of the daunting difficulties involved in getting a programme to air twenty years ago and how technology had certainly simplified the physical demands on reporters. No more moving heavy equipment from one studio to another now. with mobile phones and computer communication.

Fran feels that the main purpose of the FABC groups must be to keep pressure on governments to maintain the quality content of ABC programming; drama, documentaries and news.

She spoke in a very balanced manner about working with both Parties in government, and admitted the Rudd crew were still very new to the pressure and it was more difficult to get confirmation of interviews with the new Prime Minister compared to John Howard who was always happy to come on the programme.

She was very optimistic about the calibre of the new journalists coming through and spoke of her team as very talented and enthusiastic.

She stressed that the ABC was a leaner/meaner organisation now than when she started but she felt very proud to work there and feels it offers some great quality journalism. She also gave us a glimpse of working in a war zone, and mentioned if you are caught in crossfire try to get behind the engine block of a car as it is the strongest section and offers the most protection.

She was also very hopeful that the present funding of the ABC will be increased under the new government

and the scope of programming widened and standards maintained.

It was indeed a joy and an privilege to hear such a talented and informative journalist and we were very encouraged by her address.

The next meeting of the FABC (Blue Mountains) will be held at The Grand View Hotel on June 14th as we will be manning a stall at the Winter Magic the following Saturday.

Please feel free to join us at 10.00 a.m.
Pam Fitzpatrick (Publicity Officer)
47392450

BLUE MOUNTAINS FRIENDS OF THE ABC

Are hosting a **FORUM**

WATCHING THE MEDIA A CRITICAL VIEW



With
MONICA ATTARD and JONATHAN HOLMES



SUNDAY 27th JULY at 2pm
CARRINGTON HOTEL, KATOOMBA

\$20 – includes Afternoon Tea
Inquiries –
Pam Fitzpatrick 4739 2450

Central Coast Activity

The Central Coast Branch of Friends of the ABC remains active and enthusiastic.

Meetings are held every 2 months with coffee sessions on alternative months. Included are "meet the members" sessions as well as open discussions.

All committee meetings are open to the full membership.

Following in our successful tradition of public meetings with ABC personalities, A lunch will be held with TIM PALMER. As the ABC's Indonesian correspondent,



Tim Palmer

Tim was the first western correspondent to enter Aceh after the Boxing Day tsunami.

He also covered the Bali bombings, and is now executive producer of Lateline.

Where? Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford.

When? Friday July 26, 11am to 2pm.

How? Entry by ticket only, \$10 (includes light lunch)

Enquiries – Phone 4333 8107

Armidale Activity

In early April the Armidale group of Friends ran its annual film evening, which proved to be a social and financial success. This was not surprising as the chosen movie, *The Kiterunner*, had been well received by most critics and was warmly anticipated by readers of the original novel.

Armidale's cinema, "The Belgrave", generously supports charity nights by giving 25% of the takings to the organisation concerned. So it is in the interests of both to ensure a full house, which was achieved.

This year's profits were to be used to pay for a visit to Armidale in July by Radio National's film critic, Julie Rigg, as part of a lead-up to the locally organised International Film Festival in early August. This weekend festival is a highlight of the regional cultural calendar.

Julie had planned to speak about her experiences of festivals, including as a juror, and to critique a French movie scheduled to follow her talk. Unfortunately, Julie has been assailed by ill health and is currently on sick leave from the ABC. So her visit has been postponed.

However, it was thought worthwhile to mention this (delayed) event as an example of the Armidale FABC group's cooperation with other local bodies like the Festival committee and the Friends of the Library, because such collaboration is mutually rewarding, not least in gaining publicity and new members.

Mid North Coast Activity

Mini-Conference agrees - It's as simple as ABC

Seventeen members of the Friends of the ABC (FABC) gathered at the Falls Forest Retreat south of Port Macquarie to map out a campaign for 2008. Hosted by the Mid North Coast branch, participants included a delegation from the Cowper branch centred near Nambucca. They were joined by members of the NSW committee from Sydney.

The main issues arising from the week-end were how to get people involved, take FABC forward and campaign for the holy grail - increased funding for the next period (2009-2012), adoption of a transparent process for board appointments, and legislation to ban advertising on ABC web sites.

A letter from the Minister, Senator Stephen Conroy, was received with great interest and hopes that the Minister intends to revitalise the ABC. A contribution was made by Professor Alan Knight which stimulated



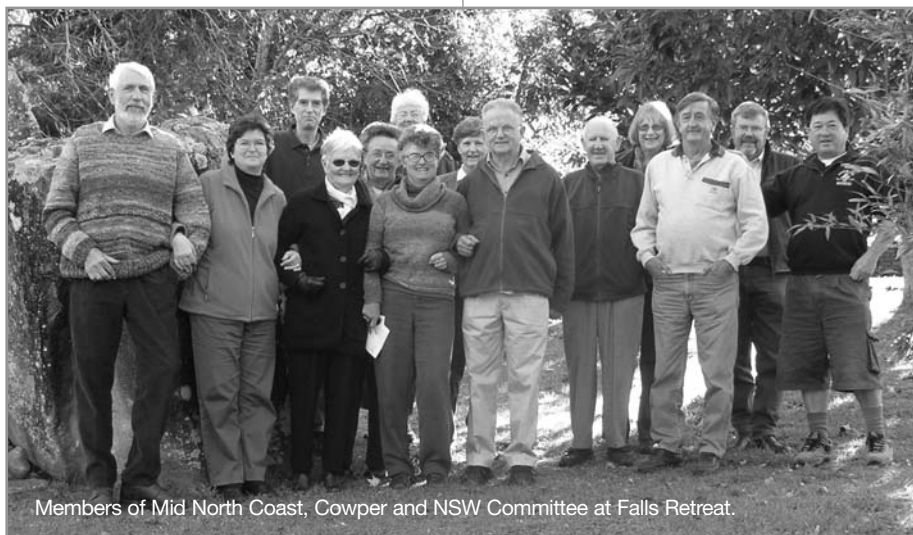
Cake made by our host, Dr Mary White.

thoughts about future technology challenges to broadcasting. Also 3 members of Mid North Coast branch had invites to an ABC feedback session on 27th May (see below) so an ideas search was held around priorities for the ABC, what it does well and what it can do better.

The Falls Forest Retreat is a Gondwana rainforest sanctuary with beautiful walks and renowned country hospitality. Laid back entertainment was provided in the evening by local musicians, duo DNA.

The ABC Feedback Session was one of many being run by the ABC. It was fantastic to sit in a room of about 50 local people, a spectrum of the community, all passionate about the ABC. Every 5 minutes someone would say "Stay commercial free!" so I think that message was broadcast sufficiently. FABC ideas stood out in only one respect, our members are aware of problems of access with the current transmission to Asia - the signal doesn't go as far as short wave. Vive la ABC! Can someone translate that into Mandarin please.

*Drusi Megget President
FABC mid north coast*



Members of Mid North Coast, Cowper and NSW Committee at Falls Retreat.

Northern Rivers Activity

East Timor Seminar - Lismore 15 August

On Friday 15 August at 7 pm the Northern Rivers branch of the Friends of the ABC will host a seminar on East Timor at the Lismore Workers' Club in Kean Street, Lismore.

There will be a panel of people discussing the recent events in East Timor and looking at Australia's future role in the development of East Timor. A key panelist will be local Page MP Janelle Saffin who acted as a legal and political adviser to Hose Ramos Horta prior to his elevation to the Presidency. Also on the panel will be a number of local people who have been involved with community development projects in East Timor. ABC Foreign Correspondent Eric Campbell hopes to attend, depending on his overseas commitments.

Participants will be asked to provide a \$10 donation to cover costs and anyone hoping to attend should contact Neville Jennings on 0405244903 or njennings@scu.edu.au to reserve a seat. There is only space for 80 participants so bookings are highly advisable.

A short AGM will be held at 5 pm prior to the seminar at the same venue.

Branch members are looking forward to the Byron Bay Writers Festival to be held on 25-27 July. Our branch is an official supporter of the festival. ABC identities figure strongly in the program and the local ABC North Coast station has an outside broadcast from the site.

Neville Jennings (President)

Hunter Activity

Our branch was very active in supporting the election of a more ABC friendly Rudd Government. We are already seeing some improvements with a proposed review of the ABC Board appointment system and restoration of the Board staff representative position. Now that the federal election is behind us

and the post election lull has abated we are beginning to stir into action once again, with our bi monthly committee meeting members examining the issues and making arrangements for our next function. We wish to congratulate all branches for their pre election efforts and look forward to seeing familiar faces at the forthcoming state conference in Wollongong. I hope to join the NSW committee after observing Mal Hewitt and his hard working team as a visitor at their June 2nd meeting.

*Peter Brandscheid President
Hunter Branch FABC*

Sunday Afternoon with Quentin Dempster

The Hunter Branch together with the Newcastle Politics in the Pub organisation will be hosting a fund raising and information session in August with Quentin Dempster as keynote speaker.



Quentin, as the ABC's regular Stateline presenter and former ABC Board staff representative, is bound to provide an interesting way to spend a winter Sunday afternoon. We invite branch members and the general public to hear Quentin give us his views and the benefit of his experience in the ABC on political issues, current affairs and other matters. This is also a good opportunity to meet fellow members and like-minded people in a social atmosphere.

FUNCTION- A Sunday Afternoon with Quentin Dempster,

VENUE – Level 2 Devonshire House
406 King Street NEWCASTLE WEST
located opposite Newcastle
Panthers Club.

DATE – Sunday, 17 August.

TIME – 2PM

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Illawarra Activity

Friends Tour of ABC Ultimo Centre

In June 2008 around thirty members of the Illawarra branch of Friends of the ABC participated in a tour of the ABC studios in Harris Street Sydney. In two groups we were shown around by two very informative and friendly volunteers. They told us that approximately 2,500 people are employed in Harris St in a variety of jobs.

We saw the two main TV recording studios. The larger one, where big shows with reasonably large audiences and/or sets are filmed, was occupied by rehearsals for "The Gruen Transfer" which was screened that night so we had only a brief glimpse inside. We had a more thorough look at the smaller studio where shows such as "At The Movies" is filmed and we met Margaret Pomerantz and David Stratton as they prepared to be recorded.

We were shown makeup, wigs and prosthetics rooms and received interesting information about these, and more technical information from the various staff members who took time out of very busy schedules to speak with us.

We saw the TV and radio news rooms and recording studios and learned how technology is so essential to bring us all the various programmes most of us take for granted. This was also very evident when we were shown how Classic FM recordings are broadcast with maximum quality.

All staff that we encountered were pleasant, informative and accommodating. The ABC head office is obviously a busy, efficient and technologically impressive centre of excellence.

It was interesting to realise that most people we encountered were unaware of the existence and roles of the Friends of the ABC, so we, too, may have educated a few people along the way.

*Kay Ryan
FABC Illawarra Branch*



A CONVERSATION WITH HENRI SZEPS

Mal Hewitt

Australian Drama on ABC Television is a pale imitation of the glory days of the first twenty years of television broadcasting, and commercial television meets its local content requirement with a wasteland of cheap-to-produce quiz shows and so-called “reality television” in which the bottom line commercial imperative militates against any possibility of quality creeping through. It is in this context that I sought out one of Australia’s living national treasures of the theatre, Henri Szeps OAM, veteran of such ABC classics as ‘Mother and Son’ and ‘Palace of Dreams’, who took time out from his current season of QED at the Ensemble for a conversation with me in a coffee shop in Leichhardt.

Henri Szeps, even after almost fifty years on stage and screen, is a very passionate man.

He is passionate about the theatre, he is passionate about the need to affirm our culture (having joined us as a European migrant at the age of eight), tell our stories, play our music – “There can be no cohesion in society unless it speaks to itself through its music, its painting, its literature, its live performance.”

He is passionate about the need for Australians to continue to hold up the mirror to our society – “It is fundamental to the health of our society that we have the capacity to question and challenge society’s values. The Arts are all about asking questions and searching for the truth. Unfortunately, commercialism gets in the way of that search for truth.”

Henri’s observations about his craft are fascinating:

- the only people who find acting easy aim for mediocrity
- if you are a perfectionist you are doomed to failure
- never blame the audience for not reacting – it simply means you’ve got it wrong
- acting is like the giant slalom – you take a deep breath and launch yourself into the performance, and in the helter-skelter downhill run at



Above: Henri Szeps and Ron Haddrick in “Codgers”. Below: Henri Szeps

great speed, the brain must always be in control

- every audience is different, every performance is different, you must adapt
- emotions are so malleable, but thoughts must be so alert
- if the performance is right, people say you love your job, but it must always look as though it is done with love.

Henri considers his time in ‘Mother and Son’ (1983 – 1993) as a high point in a long and distinguished career, and working with Ruth Cracknell and Gary McDonald both a constant joy and an inspiration. Henri’s character Robert, the dreadful brother, is “like all of us – never wrong, full of excuses and self-



justification – we hated him but we identified with him too. ‘Mother and Son’ hit all the right buttons in the Australian ethos, dealing sensitively with family relationships and the issue of ageing.” Another ABC series,

'Palace of Dreams', set in a Depression-era Sydney pub run by a Russian-Jewish migrant family also resonated with Henri as it told an important story of our history, our culture and our national characteristics.

His blunt advice to those young ones considering acting as a career:

- keep right away from it unless you'd die if you didn't
- you can't be a mediocre artist or you will starve – there's no safety net
- you must have the ability to connect with the imagination of the audience
- be prepared to try anything- versatility is essential
- go overseas – Australia has the small pond problem

Henri went to U.K. from 1971 to 1974 to "learn from the big names", working with such greats as Derek Jacobi. His first training was as an acrobat, he is fluent in French, he has done stand-up comedy, cabaret, singing, dancing, musicals, the club circuit...

The future for Henri Szeps? Retirement?? – "When I die!" was his emphatic response.

Henri seems to have taken to heart three words of wisdom from a father he hardly knew (he did not come to Australia with Henri and his mum) – "Live for today!" – and he does.

He shares the concern of many artists for the state of the world – oil, water, food, population – "we are going to have to make a gearchange of huge proportions."

He believes passionately in the importance of the arts and artists in helping society to make the changes necessary if the world is to survive.

In his next venture on stage, 'Codgers,' in which he appears with a distinguished cast of senior Australian actors – Ron Haddrick, Ronald Falk, Edwin Hodgeman, John Lam, Graham Rouse – we meet a bunch of old mates at the gym each morning. They chew the fat, laugh, tease and sing. They agree to disagree; secrets and a loss of trust threaten to destroy long-established friendships, BUT they wouldn't be dead for quids! Like all

good drama, 'Codgers' asks questions, but the answers are up to us, the audience.

In the words of Henri Szeps, "that's the function of theatre. At the end of the show, people leave, saying "Yes, another day is worth living!"

I left that Leichhardt coffee shop thankful that I had spent an hour in the company of a passionate man who lives life to the full.

You can see Henri and friends in "Codgers" at the following regional theatres:

July 30th – Aug 9th

Riverside Theatre, Parramatta
(02) 8839 3399

Aug 12th – 16th

Hothouse Theatre, Albury-Wodonga
(02) 6021 7433

Aug 19th – 20th

Regional Theatre, Griffith
(02) 6961 8388

Aug 26th

Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree
(02) 6552 5699

Aug 28th – 30th

Jetty Memorial Theatre, Coffs Harbour
(02) 6652 8088

Sept 2nd – 3rd

NORPA, Starcourt Theatre
1300 066 772

Sept 9th – 20th

Glen Street Theatre, Belrose
(02) 9975 1455

Sept. 22nd – 23rd

Laycock Street Theatre, Gosford
(02) 4323 3233



"WARNING: Australian Drama. Do not take more than once every 8 hours. May cause low blood pressure, loss of focus, blurred vision, lethargy. Do not drive within 24 hours of consuming. Avoid operating heavy machinery."

News is good for ABC

Matthew Ricketson
The Age 26 May 08

THE ABC's flagship radio current affairs programs — often the source of tension and controversy in the Howard years — have won overwhelming endorsement from a landmark report by an external expert. An audit of AM, PM and The World Today found they were almost 96% accurate.

ABC managing director Mark Scott said the report supported the ABC's goal of continually improving editorial standards. He emphasised the report was not initiated at the behest of Mr Howard's government.

The review, by an expert who reported to the ABC's director of editorial policies, Paul Chadwick, found 95.3% of items sampled from the three programs were either wholly or substantially accurate for plain facts and were 97.3% accurate on the context of the facts.

Denis Muller, an independent media research specialist and a former associate editor of *The Age*, devised a

method to review a sample of 150 current affairs items from last October. "There is a very high standard of accuracy in the material broadcast by AM, The World Today and PM," he concluded.

Inaccuracies stemmed less from recklessness or incompetence than from deadline pressure and "the competitiveness that drives journalists to make the most - sometimes too much - out of their material".

In an appendix to the report, the head of the ABC's news division, John Cameron, contested the findings of inaccuracy in some instances, saying the journalists' news-gathering inquiries had found information that clarified or superseded the original documents.

The review comes against a backdrop of 11 years of tension and sometimes open hostility between the ABC and Mr Howard's government. Former communications minister Richard Alston complained unrelentingly about the Iraq war coverage in 2003 by the morning radio current affairs program AM, exhausting all the ABC's internal complaints mechanisms and,


unhappy with the ABC's overall exoneration of the program, appealed to the Australian Broadcasting Authority with only marginal success.

Mr Howard appointed three noted public critics of the ABC to its board, anthropologist Ron Brunton, News Limited columnist Janet Albrechtsen and historian Keith Windschuttle.

After Mr Scott began as managing director in mid-2006, he moved swiftly to lower the temperature of government-ABC relations, making his first major speech at the Sydney Institute, which is headed by long-time critic of the ABC Gerard Henderson, and in late 2006 appointed respected former journalist and lawyer Paul Chadwick as the first director of editorial policies.

Mr Scott said yesterday he was not providing specific briefings to the Rudd Labor Government on the continuing reviews of programs, policies and procedures.

"We are doing this ourselves as part of our self-regulation, and making the results available to all online.

"The ABC holds itself to the highest editorial standards of independence, fairness, accuracy and impartiality under the framework of our editorial policies," he said. 

Summer Heights High Success Story

Free downloads don't erode audiences

In a speech to the CCI International Conference the ABC's Director of Television, Kim Dalton, has claimed that the ABC's decision to make Summer Heights High available for free download over the internet, has not only led to a huge audience for the broadcasts on Channel 2, but has also resulted in record sales of DVDs of the series.


Mr Dalton admitted that the decision to make downloads available for free might seem counter intuitive, given the prospect of profitable sales of the DVD through

ABC shops. However he argued that such was the quality of the production that it attracted large audiences for the initial broadcast on Channel 2, high usage of a special Summer Heights High website, more than a million downloads over the internet plus record sales of the DVD.

Mr Dalton said, "We worked very closely with the co-producers to ensure that we could deliver free, full downloads of the program after each week's broadcast. We knew this was highly commercially desirably content, but we went with a counter-intuitive strategy to the standard restrictive distribution policy."

And what happened? The Summer Heights High broadcast achieve an

average 5 city metro audience of 1.3 million. The program captured a viewing share of 47% among high school aged students, and 45% of 13-24 year-olds. The Summer Heights High website was one of the most popular ABC TV program sites. 1.2 million downloads were recorded for the program in 2007 and interactive games were available. And how did this affect the viability of the DVD? After two months in release, Summer Heights High had the highest sales of any individual Australian title in the last four years.

Clearly, the paradigm is shifting. Our online on-demand offering does not erode our audiences; it strengthens their engagement and enjoyment. 

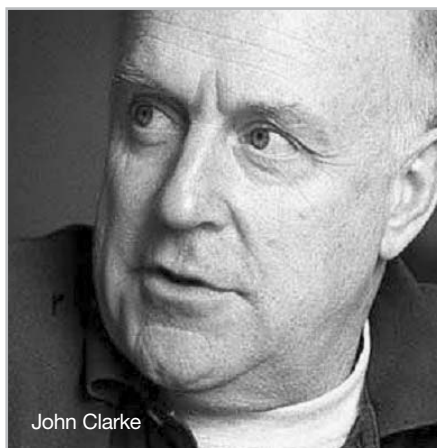
John Clarke inducted into Logie Awards Hall of Fame

John Clarke is being recognised for his esteemed contribution to the Australian television industry, through work as performer, writer and director.

John was in fine comic form when informed of his win, saying, "I'm inclined to regard this as a youth encouragement award. I'm deeply grateful and will do what I can."

Since arriving here in 1977, the New Zealand-born comic has wooed the Australian public. He began with his trademark political satire "interviews" alongside comedian Bryan Dawe on ABC radio, then moved to A Current Affair, where they were a part of the program for many years.

John's collaborations over the years with Australia's leading performers –



including Graham Kennedy, Max Gillies, Geoffrey Rush, Andrew Denton, Sam Neill and Gina Riley – have produced comedy gold, while his prolific writing career has spanned drama series ANZACs to acclaimed mockumentary *The Games*.

It's his unique ability to make us laugh at ourselves that's made John Clarke's talent such a valuable treasure. From his genesis as Fred Dagg to all his current guises, he is a truly worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

(with thanks to Joan Laing, editor of Background Briefing)

Logie Awards for the ABC

While Chris Lilley, the creator and star of *Summer Heights High*, won the Silver Logie for Most Popular Actor, The ABC dominated the peer-voted outstanding awards - winning five: Curtin won Most Outstanding Drama Series, Miniseries or Telemovie; Lilley's *Summer Heights High* was named Most Outstanding Comedy and the *Choir Of Hard Knocks* claimed the Most Outstanding Factual Series Logie. "It's indeed a great honour to stand here tonight and represent the choir," creator Jonathan Welsh said. He said the group still meets weekly to sing. "This belongs to them. They truly are the stars of this show and deserve this more than anybody."

Australian Story's program about Belinda Emmett picked up the Most Outstanding Public Affairs Report. The ABC also won Most Outstanding Documentary for *Constructing Australia: The Bridge*.

Map of the future for Australia and the ABC



Alan Knight

Our future will be mapped on the Internet. Before and beyond 2020, Australians will demand equitable access to enhanced digital information to underpin our democracy, to develop our self-awareness and to re-create the cultures which will bind national unity.

Many will become producers as well as consumers, but to do so effectively, they will need the support of existing intellectual drivers such as the universities and the ABC.

Broadband promises individuals in the outback as well as the cities opportunities to consider and contribute to the national polity. This uniquely Australian conversation need not be overwhelmed by a flood of globalised and perhaps sanitised news and entertainment.

As a former journalist, I know that Australians want news about their

neighbourhoods as they contribute to the national debates. As an Emeritus Professor from a regional university, I know that remote learners must engage with metropolitan libraries and data bases to form and fire the imaginations which will invent our futures. As National Spokesperson for Friends of the ABC, I understand the critical role the national broadcaster already plays in this process by creating Australian intellectual products which enlighten and entertain and which, when distributed, unify Australians from the suburbs to the bush.

The ABC stands as a national alternative to locally focused commercial radio and television stations which entertain and perhaps inform but which do not necessarily educate. The ABC produces quality journalism throughout Australia in contrast to in-depth newspapers which are largely centred in the major cities. Newspaper advertising revenue which underpins such quality journalism is already shifting to the net where

younger audiences are located. This trend places even more responsibility on the ABC, our largest Australian owned media institution.

The ABC needs open and responsive governance, and untied and adequate budgeting to bring its old communications skills to this new market of ideas. As broadband develops, more citizens can be expected to download radio and television programs rather than relying on terrestrial broadcasters. The ABC's growing online archive should become an unfolding resource not just for historians and the politically interested but for anyone, anywhere, who wants to advance their knowledge of Australia.

Graded, certified and marketed knowledge - education - is already one of Australia's major export earners. But to remain internationally competitive, our educators must think beyond

(Continued on Page 12)

Map of the future for Australia and the ABC

(Continued from Page 11)

disparate institutions and deploy professional communications to build new, open, intelligence networks. And it's not enough to supply educators with modern communications technology. They also need professional communications skills.

The internet threads through many of the questions before the 2020 conference. It can be expected to drive education, the economy, the arts and even environmental projects as Australians to pursue sea changes. As Bill Gates said, knowledge workers can operate anywhere there is a computer and a modem. This could mean high quality jobs in clean and ordered regional environments.

However, if Richard Florida's intelligence intensive, creative

industries are to be realised, all Australians need access to net delivered information, education and culture. A strong and healthy ABC, working with more conventional educators could lead the way to this prosperous and innovative future.

Professor Alan Knight, President of Queensland Friends of the ABC, submitted this statement with his nomination for the 2020 conference.



The Gruen Transfer. How it all ads up

Sacha Molitorisz SMH 26 May 08

'We've had 200 complaints,' says Wil Anderson, host of the The Gruen Transfer. "We're the most complained-about show on TV even before being on-air."

The Gruen Transfer is a show about advertising - the very thing viewers turn to the ABC to avoid. The complaints have been about the mock ads aired on the ABC to promote the show. One was for an anti-ageing skin cream, which ends with the slogan, "If you buy this you'll have been born yesterday." And another for Gruen Bank: "We know you hate us and we hate you, too, [but] you need us and we know it."

"I can't say we haven't enjoyed putting the Gruen ads on," says Jon Casimir, who created the show with Andrew Denton. "I heard of people having a sense of disconnection, of turning to their partner and saying, 'Did I actually see what I thought I saw or am I going mad?'"

As with many effective ads, the Gruen promos are subversive, provocative and funny. Still attracting attention on YouTube, they encapsulate the spirit of the show, which amounts to a withering satire and expose of the advertising industry.

The show's name derives from Victor Gruen, an architect born in Vienna in 1903 who designed one of

the US's first shopping malls. 'The Gruen Transfer' refers to the moment a person in a shopping mall becomes disoriented by lighting, music, mirrors and so on and becomes more likely to make impulse purchases.

On the show, Anderson leads experts from the ad industry through a series of exercises, games and discussions. Regular panelists include advertisers Todd Sampson (of Leo Burnett) and Russel Howcroft (of George Patterson Y&R), who tackle issues such as the objectification of women or the marketing of unethical products.

If the show does its job properly, you may find yourself responding to ads differently. You may suddenly notice that almost every beer ad has four blokes, that men in underwear ads are 'double-bagged' (male models wear two pairs of undies) and that there are differences between chocolate pitched at men and women.

Similarly, *The Gruen Transfer* tries to reveal the humanity of advertisers. It's a witty, nuanced account of an industry often dismissed as voracious and destructive.

And despite the complaints, the ABC is the perfect home for the show. "I don't think there's anywhere else the show could be," Casimir says. "No commercial network or entity would pick up a show that questions the commerce that drives the network. Can you imagine us getting stuck into four-wheel-drives when the next ad is for a 4WD?"



Office of Senator. The Hon Stephen Conroy
Minister for broadband, communications and the digital economy
Deputy leader of the government in the senate

2 May 2008

Ms Drusi Megget
President
Friends of the ABC Mid North Coast

PO Box 1752
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Ms Megget,

The ABC

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2008 to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, on behalf of the Mid North Coast Branch of the Friends of the ABC, concerning the ABC. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf and I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Minister has asked me to thank you for your invitation to speak at the proposed forum. Unfortunately, he is not available to meet with your members at this time. I have recently had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the NSW, Queensland and ACT branches of the Friends of the ABC, and had some very informative discussions concerning ABC funding, board appointments and advertising.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring adequate funding to the ABC on a triennial basis to enable it to provide Australians with high-quality broadcasting services, free from political and commercial interference.

Over the three years to 2008-09, Government funding to the ABC will total more than \$2.5 billion. Any new funding proposals for the ABC would be considered in the context of the Federal Budget.

The Government is also committed to the independence of the ABC, recognising that it is critical to ensuring unbiased programming and editorial decisions and restoring public confidence in our national broadcaster.

In line with its election commitment, the Government plans to introduce a new ABC Board appointment process.

The new ABC Board appointment process will ensure that board members are appointed on the basis of merit. Candidates will be considered by a panel established independently from the Minister who will select Board members from a shortlist prepared by the panel. SBS Board appointments will be dealt with in the same way.

This method would be similar to the 'Nolan rules' system of board appointments which is used by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Further, under the new Board Appointment process, the Chairmanship of the ABC will be held by a person nominated by the Prime Minister and endorsed by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Government will also restore the staff-elected Director position on the ABC Board, which was abolished by the previous Government.

The Australian Broadcasting Act 1983 provides that a person shall not be appointed as a non-executive Director of the ABC Board unless the person appears to the Governor-General to be suitable for appointment because of having:

- o experience in connection with the provision of broadcasting services or in communications or management;
- o expertise in financial or technical matters; or
- o cultural or other interests relevant to the oversight of a public organisation engaged in the provision of broadcasting and television services.

This will not change under the new ABC Board appointment process.

The Government is moving quickly to implement these arrangements to ensure greater transparency, accountability and public confidence in the ABC.

Thank you for writing to the Minister concerning these issues. I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Mitchell
Adviser

New Teeth for Aunty

Reinvigorating the

National Broadcaster

Part One. By Robert Manne

I am a creature of habit. In the mornings, like the former prime minister, I rely on Radio National's *Breakfast*, although I am less impressed with it in its current incarnation than I was when it was presented by Peter Thompson and Richard Ackland. With the former there used to be outstanding intellectual discussions between 7.30 and 8.00, often involving key thinkers from around the globe. With the latter what I admired was the mordant wit. Almost my favourite moment on radio, ever, came during an Ackland interview with the redoubtable but garrulous Geoffrey Robertson. There was a moment when it appeared likely that a Robertson answer would never end. Ackland had sufficient mastery of the technology to inform his listeners, without interrupting Robertson, by now in full flight, that he was going out for a quick smoke. Every morning I listen to *AM*. On the way to work I try to take in one of the Radio National morning magazine programs on media, religion and the law, although I avoid sport because the program doesn't interest me much, and health on hypochondriac grounds. If I work at home I often listen to Classic FM, although never to Margaret Throsby, for the paradoxical reason that her interviews are so absorbing that I cannot concentrate on the task at hand. I almost never listen any longer to ABC Local Radio. I am simply not interested in the kind of middlebrow market at which it aims. Melbourne's Jon Faine is an exception. Local ABC becomes important to me only at 6.00, with *PM*, which I try never to miss. In the evenings, whenever possible, I watch mainly ABC Television: the news and the *7.30 Report*, often what is on offer after that, and if I am not exhausted, *Lateline*. If I am in the garden on weekends, I like to listen to football in the winter and cricket in the summer. During Test matches the gentle patter of the commentary, punctuated occasionally by Kerry O'Keefe's insane laughter, replaces Classic FM. If I am

ever in my car at 4.00 in the afternoon or at 10.00 in the evening I listen to Phillip Adams, perhaps the most remarkable broadcaster in the history of this country.

This outline of my daily routine should at least make one thing clear: the ABC plays a very important part in my life. As it does for very many Australians. There is almost no institution in Australia that is more generally trusted, valued and loved than the ABC, as survey after survey shows. There is probably no other that has so loyal and attentive and possessive a society of Friends.

The Howard years saw the rise and rise of an aggressive right-wing commentariat

It is uncontroversial that the period of the Howard government was the most difficult era in the history of the ABC. There were two main interrelated reasons for this, one ideological and the other financial. Let me deal first with the one I understand best.

As soon as the Howard government was elected, it decided to make the ABC one of the main fronts of the culture war it was determined to prosecute. The justification can be summarised like this. At some time in the past, so it was alleged, the ABC had been "captured" by its staff, who sought to use the broadcaster, in a Gramscian manner, as a launching

pad for cultural revolution. As part of this cultural revolution, the ABC for a long time had supposedly pushed the agenda of the Left on issues like refugees, the republic, multiculturalism, reconciliation, radical feminism, extreme environmentalism, anti-Americanism, gay rights and so on. Because it was supposedly still influenced by Marxism, it was anti-capitalist, showing little interest in or understanding of real-world economics. The ABC had long been, it was claimed, dominated by so-called elites, who tried to force their so-called politically correct views down the throats of 'ordinary people'. Because there was believed to be a disconnect between the ABC program-makers, who were said to be left-wing ideologues, and their viewers and listeners, who on balance were liberal or conservative, the short description of the ABC most favoured by John Howard in 1996 was the one supplied by his adviser Grahame Morris: "our enemy talking to our friends".

Although almost every element of this case was either exaggerated or entirely fanciful, at the time the Howard government came into office both it and its supporters believed something needed to be done.

Let me outline the most important elements of the strategy that gradually unfolded. The Howard years saw the rise and rise of an aggressive right-wing commentariat: Andrew Bolt, Piers Akerman, Alan Jones, Miranda Devine, Janet Albrechtsen, Christopher Pearson, Gerard Henderson, Paul Sheehan and so on. For the past 11 and three-quarter years they maintained a consistent rhetorical attack on the supposed left-wing bias of the ABC and on the apparent failure of its chairman or its board or even the government to recapture it. Of course, all this had its effect.

The attack-dogs in the media had the support of the neo-liberal think-tanks, like the IPA in Melbourne, which at critical moments during the past decade conducted pseudo-academic studies into bias during election campaigns or during political crises such as the 1998 waterfront dispute. Even though these studies

generally did not show what they set out to show, they too had their effect.

The anti-ABC campaign had the support of Coalition senators, like Santo Santoro and Concetta Anna Fierravanti-Wells, who were fed material on supposed ABC bias by interested lobby groups and used it for a remorseless biannual assault on ABC executives during estimates hearings of the Senate. Such attacks by themselves would not have had as much impact if they had not been supported by Howard government ministers, most importantly Richard Alston. At first Alston demanded more elaborate complaints mechanisms be established. He then used these new mechanisms to pursue the ABC for many, many months, and in no less than three separate inquiries, over the supposed bias in AM's coverage of the early stages of the invasion of Iraq. According to the Howard government and its supporters' set of values, Linda Mottram's or John Shovelan's occasional sarcasms at America's expense were of greater moral significance than the fact that Australia was involved in an invasion of a country on the basis of false intelligence concerning non-existent weapons of mass destruction, which led to the death of tens and then hundreds of thousands of people, the flight of millions of others, the likelihood of full-scale civil war and the destruction of a nation.

**In my opinion
the long campaign
against left-wing
bias at the ABC,
however, did
far more harm
than good.**

(A snippet from next issue's instalment.)

For the Howard government all this, however, was not enough. To reform the ABC it first appointed to the board a key extra-parliamentary

Liberal Party culture-war combatant, Michael Kroger. According to the historian of the ABC, Ken Inglis, Kroger was the first board member to try to intervene directly with a program: Chris Masters' *Four Corners* portrait of Alan Jones. When he could not get his way on this and many other issues, largely because of the resistance of the conservative chair, Donald McDonald, Kroger decided to quit. He was soon followed onto the board, though, by three of the most strident anti-ABC cultural warriors in the country: Ron Brunton, Janet Albrechtsen and Keith Windschuttle. Even now there was still, for the government, a problem with the board: the staff-elected director. Ramona Koval was first accused of leaking board material to a journalist, David Marr. She was then criticised for her unwillingness to accept a protocol which required all board members to keep their proceedings confidential, something Koval thought inconsistent with her role as the elected representative of the ABC staff. Because of her refusal to accept the confidentiality protocol, one of the members of the board, the stockbroker and close friend of the prime minister Maurice Newman, resigned. When Koval's term was finished, the position of staff-elected board member was abolished. And when Donald McDonald's second term expired, Newman made a return, this time as chair. Finally the board could conduct its affairs in confidence. One decision now made was not to publish Chris Masters' biography of Alan Jones. Another was, or so it was reported, to require the ABC to televise a denialist documentary on climate change, *The Great Global Warming Swindle*.

The board appointed a new managing director, Mark Scott, who began his administration by making a critical admission at the Sydney salon of one of the most persistent of the ABC's right-wing critics, Gerard Henderson: even if the enemies of the ABC frequently exaggerated their case about left-wing bias, this did not mean that what they alleged was entirely without foundation. He was the first managing director to make a concession of this kind. Scott made it clear that, under his administration, mechanisms would be created to

ensure that the problem of bias, both perceived and real, would be seriously addressed. He also made it clear that one of the television programs frequently accused of bias, Media Watch, would be reviewed, and that a new, conspicuously unbiased program, Difference of Opinion, would be launched, as a sign of the kind of improved cultural balance he sought to create.

...to be continued.

The second part of this article will appear in the next issue of Update.

Or alternatively, the whole piece can be found on the FABC website at www.fabc.org.au News and Views Issue 26.

Do you wish to contribute to Update?

If so, please observe the following Guidelines:

- All material should be submitted to the editor Mal Hewitt email: malandal@optusnet.com.au
- Articles submitted can only be accepted in Microsoft Word format, sent in as attachments to an email. If you don't normally use Microsoft Word, you will find you can 'Save As' into that format.
- Please do not attempt to "format" or indent or otherwise shape the word document, and in particular do not type a "return" after any sentence, except at the end of a paragraph.
- Do not use double spacing. The text should just flow normally.
- Pictures should be submitted in .JPG format as attachments to an email.
- If possible crop your photos before submission.
- To maintain the quality of images inserted into Update, pictures should not be reduced in "file size" (the number of kilobytes). Just submit them in their original file size, after cropping.
- Ideally, pics should be greater than 300 kilobytes, and depending on your camera setup they may be several megabytes.
- Picture captions are essential - add them to the MS Word document submitted. Refer the caption to the picture file name.

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links to all State Branches.

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www.friendsoftheabc.org.au

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*The Treasurer, Friends of the ABC (NSW) Inc.
PO Box 1391, North Sydney NSW 2059.*

Use only if joining or if your membership has expired.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	\$15	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (covers 3 people)	\$15	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a donation	\$60	-
	\$	
Total \$	_____	

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