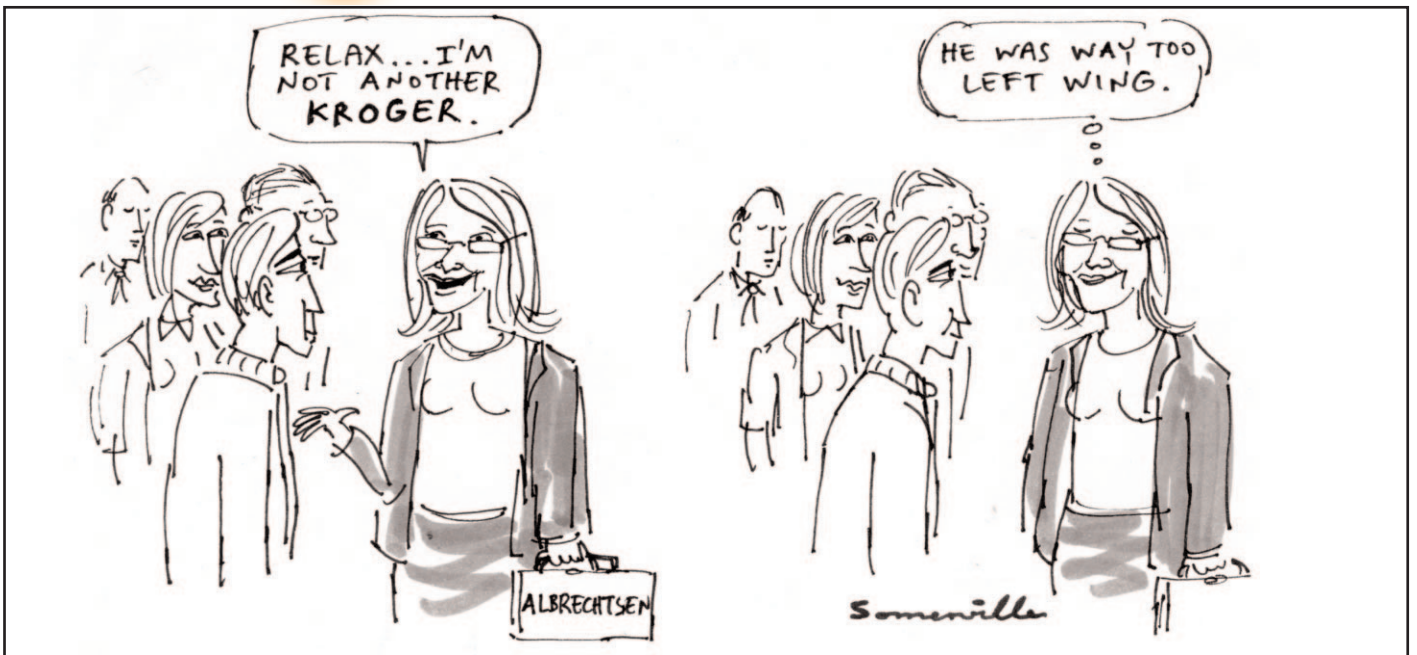


update

friends of the abc



Cartoon courtesy Phil Sommerville

STACKING THE ABC BOARD

FABC President, Gary Cook

The Federal government's decision to appoint Janet Albrechtsen to the board of the ABC underscores its contempt for the national broadcaster. Both major political parties have been guilty of making political appointments over many years, but the Howard government has taken it to another level – it has the arrogance to appoint self-confessed opponents of the ABC.

The outrageous appointment of the conservative News Limited columnist is the latest in a growing list. First there was Liberal Party powerbroker and Packer acolyte Michael Kroger, who pushed claims of bias against the ABC while on the Board. All were comprehensively rejected. He was replaced by Dr Ron

Brunton, a former senior fellow with the Institute of Public Affairs, a right wing think tank that has been a fierce critic of the ABC. Ms Albrechtsen is of the same ilk. Her allegations of left-wing bias against the ABC have been augmented by a spectacular public spat with Media Watch.

The Friends of the ABC believe all of them to be completely inappropriate appointments.

Instead of moving towards a more independent and transparent process of board appointments such as the Nolan Rules in the UK, introduced by a Conservative government there, it seems that the only prerequisite for being appointed to

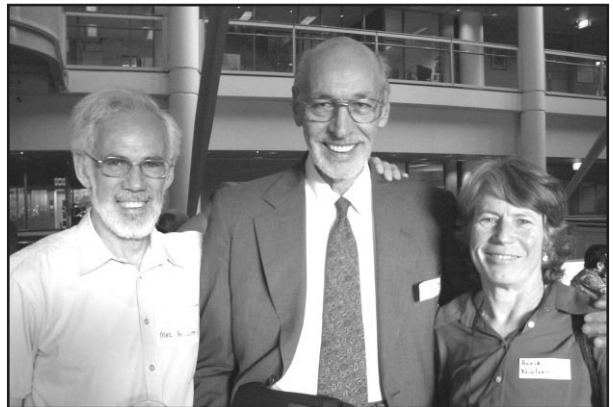
the ABC board is to toe the same ideological line as the government. The Liberal/National Coalition is the only major political group in Australia that refuses to adopt as policy an independent method of ABC board appointments. The true test is that .

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CHRISTMAS ON THE DOT



Mal Hewitt, Jim Grainda and Annie Nielsen from Parramatta Branch

The NSW Friends annual shindig at Ultimo last December was bigger and better than ever.

About 200 Friends were joined by a number of popular ABC presenters. Media Watch EP Peter McEvoy and members of his team turned up to receive the Friends' annual Excellence in Broadcasting Award.

The award is given to the person or program we believe most in keeping with the aims and aspirations of the Friends of the ABC. Previous winners include Caroline Jones.



Media Watch's Alison McClymont, Peter McEvoy, and Trish Drum with the Friends' Excellence in Broadcasting award.

The pictures tell the story!



Peter Brandscheid, Lisa and Allan Thomas from Hunter



Kerry O'Brien got an enthusiastic welcome from Max Plumb



Ming d'Iapico-Bien, Jessica Harwood, Janet Harwood



FABC NSW President Gary Cook and Sunday Nights presenter, John Cleary

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It was a pleasure to again meet many members at our Annual Christmas Party on 3 December last at ABC

Headquarters. Our annual award for "Excellence in Broadcasting" was presented to the Media Watch program. Presenter David Marr has returned to his former role at the Sydney Morning Herald and a new presenter Liz Jackson of Four Corners will host the program in 2005.

This year will see a significant shift in the political landscape. The Howard Government, apart from being returned in October, is set to gain control of the Senate in July. No doubt, the electorate voted accordingly and many people would say "that is democracy in action". On the other hand, the checks and balances that the Senate has provided for many years due to the balance of power not being controlled by the Government of the day, could be said to be more democratic. What does this mean for the Friends of the ABC? It means that we have to be even more vigilant.

Future Campaigns

Relaxation of the cross-media ownership laws is certainly on the Government's agenda. This would work in favour of Packer and Murdoch and ensure a less independent media. The importance and independence of the ABC is underscored even more.

Other potential issues which we will not only be keeping a watching brief over, but preparing to campaign on are :-

- Gradual commercialisation (perhaps the SBS model)
- Reducing the ABC to being a specialised broadcaster and not a comprehensive one by altering the ABC Charter
- Further cuts in the ABC budget

Once again, when a major crisis has occurred (the Boxing Day tsuna-

mi), the ABC has excelled. The quality of ABC correspondents is of the highest calibre and their reports from disaster zones have been graphic, informative and sensitive.

When the monitoring results of the ABC's coverage of the 2004 Federal Election were released, it left ABC critics no opportunity to level accusations of bias against the ABC. The monitoring process is assessed for fairness and balance internally by the Election Coverage Review Committee and externally by Rehome and Newspoll.

Fair and Balanced

Rehome found that, over the campaign period, the ABC's election coverage provided 44.6% share of voice to the Coalition and 43.5% share of voice to the ALP. In Rehome's words, "These results demonstrate an even balance in the ABC's media coverage for the duration of the 2004 Federal Election campaign". Newpoll found that "among those who have an opinion, community perceptions remain heavily weighted towards the ABC being unbiased in its reporting of news and current affairs and not biased in favour or against particular federal political parties".

It is worth noting that, for the 2004 campaign, no written complaints were received from the campaign headquarters of any party.

The decision by ABC Director of Enterprises, Robyn Watts, to withdraw the ban on the licensing and supply of archival material to third parties is welcomed. At the time that the ban was imposed, we voiced our displeasure at what we saw as an opportunity for political figures to censor historical footage. After all, the ABC's Editorial Policies state that "ABC program material is a valuable, historical, cultural and commercial asset".

ABC Managing Director Russell Balding denied that there was a budget crisis at Radio National when quizzed before a Senate Estimates Committee in late February.

RN Funding Crisis

Despite Mr. Baldings assurances we are hearing regular and disturbing reports of vacancies not being filled, a lack of producers available, programs being cut or adversely affected and, while local radio is achieving excellent survey results, Radio National is languishing at about 2% of the market. An emergency review of resources is being undertaken to find a solution, but, with the report not due until the end of May, there are three more months left in this financial year for Radio National to struggle through.

It is a fact that, due to the nature of its content, Radio National requires a greater number of staff than other less specialised ABC radio networks. Its programs involve a significant amount of research and they are generally of original material.

When the Government conducts its review of the ABC's management of its budget, the plight of Radio National needs to be highlighted. If there is a genuine commitment to the Arts in this country, Radio National should be clearly acknowledged as the principal electronic communication medium for the Arts in Australia.

The Friends will be holding a National Conference in Sydney over the weekend of 16-17 April. Some important issues are looming, in particular:-

- The government's intention to conduct a review of the ABC's management of its budget
- Further appointments to the ABC Board
- A review by the government of the complaints procedure (forming part of the ABA replacement body which is expected to be in place by 1 July 2005)
- The ABC's Triennial Funding submission for 2006 (due to be submitted by September 2005)
- Commercialisation by stealth
- Digital radio and television
- Cross-media ownership

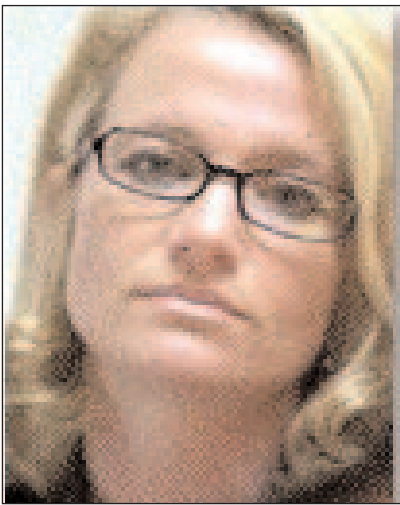
Gary Cook, President

STACKING THE ABC BOARD

Continued from Page 1

the only non-executive Board member with a background in broadcasting is the staff elected director, Ramona Koval. Ms Koval described the latest appointment as "inappropriate."

On her appointment, Ms Albrechtsen, in criticising Ramona Koval for her comments, stated that "it's not the place for a director to be talking about that in public" "discussions will take place at board level, which is where they ought to take place".



Janet Albrechtsen

This high-principled position appeared to have been quickly forgotten, for less than three days later, the same Ms Albrechtsen, commenting on ABC Radio, said that the issue of bias was a priority for the ABC board. In the best Alstonian tradition, she continued, "I've written about the ABC on some occasions where I have seen there to be, there have been problems of bias and how facts are presented. Now, whether that translates into a systemic bias, I don't know, but I'm certainly happy to look at that."

Friends of the ABC's spokesperson Margaret O'Connor issued the following media release on 25 February.

Following the appointment of Ms Janet Albrechtsen to the board of the ABC, Friends of the ABC have called on the government to reform the process by which appointments are made to the ABC board.

Ms Albrechtsen, who writes for The Australian, has been a fierce and unrelenting critic of the ABC.

I think it is fair to describe Ms Albrechtsen as an ideological zealot, which, in itself, does not disqualify her from the ABC board. Our problem is with the political balance on the ABC board, and with the appointment process.

In selecting commentators to appear on its programs, the ABC is, quite properly, required to provide a balance of opinion. But in selecting members of the ABC board, the government appoints Ms Albrechtsen and other 'usual suspects' time after time.

When you get so many Directors who have been such open critics of the ABC and such a preponderance of the same political views, we say the ABC board is screaming out for a bit of balance. Any ABC producer who chose the government appointed members of the ABC board as the panel for a current affairs discussion would be quickly found guilty of bias.

Not only does the government appoint the usual suspects, but the process itself is also suspect. It happens secretly, and without any apparent relationship to the qualifications required to run a half billion dollar a year organisation. It is time that the government followed the example of the Conservative government in the UK and implemented an open, transparent and non-partisan method of finding qualified people to run our national broadcaster. So say the Friends of the ABC.



Michael Kroger

Unfortunately the furore surrounding the Albrechtsen appointment has given several ABC bashers the courage to come out of their holes. A particularly nasty article appeared in

The Australian authored by Neil Brown, a former communications minister in the Fraser government.



Neil Brown

Some members will recall that the first cuts to the ABC budget so incensed devoted ABC listeners and viewers that they became mobilised and formed Friends of the ABC in 1976. Brown was a member of the government that was responsible.

Brown sarcastically typified what he called "the official ABC position" as "first of all, against anything American." He went on to criticise the ABC because he said it "has opposed the war in Iraq at every step, gloated over every setback and magnified every criticism from any malcontent and misfit it can find."

"Moreover" he said, "... on the ABC, all industry is bad, all chemicals are poisonous, all wilderness is pristine, all animals are gentle, all business is evil and all government a conspiracy." Brown conveniently omitted to mention the clean bill of health given to the ABC's election coverage by Rehame.

In his article, Brown congratulated Albrechtsen on getting on the board of the ABC, saying he could "already hear the irate rattle of spoons in a thousand caffe lattes up and down the east coast as the inevitable rage builds up to tsunami-like proportions."

I wrote back taking issue with Brown on behalf of the Friends.

The fact that the ABC continues to provide a world class broadcasting service despite being grossly underfunded, subject to political interference and board stacking, is a tribute to its dedicated staff.

But I'm afraid it must prepare for further attacks from this government.

RADIO NATIONAL BUDGET CRISIS

Radio National is rightly described as the jewel in the crown of ABC Radio. It has the highest editorial and production values, an impossibly eclectic and erudite spectrum of programming, and a devoted audience of influential people. However it's also in the grip of a crippling budget squeeze.

Staff returning to RN after the Christmas break were told that a number of program assignments needed to be changed to meet budget shortfalls. About a dozen members of staff, many with specialist qualifications, were re-assigned to different programs. Vacancies created by five resignations were left unfilled. It seems that RN managers knew of the shortfall when commissioning the schedule for 2005, but went ahead with it anyway.

At subsequent union meetings RN staff condemned the understaffing, and warned that programs were being put to air without checking, and that some people were working on two shows at once. RN staff also passed a motion of no confidence in their Program Manager Gordon Taylor. Taylor has since moved (or been moved) sideways into a job examining the digital broadcasting future across a number of cities.

If one looks closely though, budgetary constraints at RN have actually been apparent for some time. Over the last year or two there's been a shift from packaged programming into live programming. Packaged programming by its very nature is more considered, better produced, and more expensive. Needless to say, live programming doesn't need editing. In recent years one live RN program, Life Matters, has had its timeslot expanded. This year, Geraldine Doogue is presenting a live Saturday breakfast program.

If there's a silver lining around the dark clouds at RN, it's the appointment of Jane Connors to try and unravel the mess. Friends of the ABC who rallied at the

Opera House in 2001 would remember her brave and passionate speech in defence of the ABC. As a former EP in the ABC's Social History Unit, she's also been responsible for some of the ABC's finest radio programs, including the epic 100 Years In A Dayback in 2002.

Connors has been put in charge of an internal review of programming that's due to be submitted by the end of May. Possible outcomes mooted so far include: RN running more repeats, changing the program briefs, splicing more music into the interviews to pad out time, and cutting shows altogether.

Recent media reports suggest RN's budget takes up \$13 to \$14 million from ABC radio's total budget of \$90 million. The budget crisis has brought many RN supporters out of the woodwork, voicing their concerns on online forums and the letter pages of daily newspapers.

CALLING ALL RN LISTENERS! HELP LOBBY FOR MORE RESOURCES FOR RN

Write the to ABC Board, with a copy to the ABC Managing Director NOW.

The ABC Board has a responsibility to cease hiding the ABC's funding difficulties from the community and to enlist its support to pressure the government for adequate funding.

Let them know you will not accept any further loss in the quality and diversity of RN programming.

Write to: Donald McDonald,
Chairman, ABC Board, GPO Box 9994,
Sydney 2001 & Russell Balding, ABC
Managing Director

Send copies to FABC:
fabcnsw@fabcnsw.org.au
or
PO Box 1391, North Sydney 2059



Bold programs like Late Night Live in the Solomons make Radio National a national treasure

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Rewind unwound

REWIND has indeed been axed, and yet again we have an ABC management decision that defies comprehension. After endless reruns of the Tudors on Sunday nights — where we learnt nothing new — at last we had a clever, revealing, home-grown piece of investigative history, presented by the incomparable Michael Cathcart.

This is what Tony Moore had to say about Rewind in an article arguing for Australian history on our television and cinema screens:

Factual has long been the sick man of ABC TV and we can only hope its three new heads can make it a clearing house for knowledge, critical thinking and creative storytelling. Factual must first recreate a centre of in-house documentary innovation, establishing units of excellence in history, social issues, culture and science equal to the standards set by the Religious and Natural History Units. These units should be shockers with bright young things who are not beholden to outdated TV rules from the last century who are allowed to invent some new rules and to do their knowledge thing. Which brings me to the ABC's latest attempt to address the history gap – Rewind.

The Rewind unit employs innovative stylists and professional historians, and has got off to a bouncy start over the past two Sundays in what Ruth Ritchie might call the 'Bonnet slot'. The stories are aesthetically envelope stretching and beautifully shot and edited, the storytelling is engaging and there is a playful element that should be enhanced. The stories on the mysterious Pyjama Girl and the tragedy of Billy Hughes' society daughter took us down unexpected paths into social milieus we don't usually encounter in Australian history. Rewind could be the basis of a centre of real innovation and historical excellence if senior managers encourage staff to take risks and tell us stories we don't know.

Tony Moore 'Channelling History' www.artshub.com.au

bb

ABC FOLDS OVER FILE FOOTAGE, DIGS IN OVER DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT

After a struggle of more than a year, the ABC's Content Rights Management Division has finally backed down on its requirement for documentary film makers to obtain permission from the subject of the footage before its re-use. The ABC's motivation seems to have been an attempt to avoid embarrassment or censure by government politicians in what was an election year. However the decision was tantamount to allowing politicians to veto the use of news footage in documentaries.

The issue came to a head early in 2004, when the documentary maker Judy Rymer approached the ABC to ask it to licence the use of some old news clips for a four-part educational documentary series, Punished not Protected. The footage involved was of public statements by ministers in the Howard government during the children overboard affair in the lead-up to the 2001 election.

Rymer was astounded when told that she couldn't use the news clips, unless she first got permission to use them from the politicians involved - the Prime Minister, Philip Ruddock, Peter Reith and Amanda Vanstone. The refusal hinged on the documentary being 'cause or advocacy related.'

Media Watch highlighted the issue in July, provoking outrage in the documentary film industry. ABC staff also revolted at what they saw as a fundamental compromise of the ABC's editorial integrity. ABC staff unions, the Australian Screen Directors Association and the Friends embarked on a campaign for the policy to be overturned.

The backflip eventually came just ahead of the ABC's appearance at Senate Estimates in February, with the ABC dropping the offending clause from its archival licensing policy. ASDA Executive Director Richard Harris called the result 'a great outcome for Australian independent documentary filmmakers.'

On another issue, the ABC is digging in over its Draft Code of Conduct, highlighted in the last issue of Update. The latest version of the controversial Draft Code has removed the attempt to seize the winnings of any ABC staff awarded cash prizes. However it is still trying to regulate their private activities outside work hours.

If implemented ABC staff would have to advise their supervisors of memberships of any outside organisations, so the ABC can determine if there is a 'conflict of interest; potential, actual or perceived.' The latest joint union submission on the matter says the draft constitutes an unreasonable and probably unlawful incursion on the rights of their members. The submission also criticises what it calls the confused drafting of the proposal, adding that the final result would be open to inconsistent and possibly capricious application.

It's worth remembering that two years ago, a hypersensitive ABC management found RN's Stephen Crittenden guilty of 'serious misconduct' for writing an article on the clash of Islam and the West for the Sydney Morning Herald. Meanwhile a number of other ABC personalities engage in a variety of seemingly unregulated outside activities – from writing newspaper columns to presenting lifestyle shows on pay television. That decision even had Gerard Henderson complaining that the ABC was being "timid and censorious."

"Update" includes material from the South Australia 'Friends' publication *"Background Briefing"*, compiled and edited by Joan Laing. In *"Update"* this material is credited as:

bb

ABC Shines In Tsunami Tragedy

The ABC's reporting of the South Asian tsunami was nothing short of magnificent, particularly the work by Indonesia Correspondent Tim Palmer. While most Australians were still recovering from Christmas, Palmer was on his way to Aceh. Having witnessed the devastation wrought by the tsunami at Aitape in Papua New Guinea in 1998 he had an inkling of the scale of the disaster.

He flew to Medan in northern Sumatra with the



Tim Palmer in Banda Aceh

ABC's Jakarta producer Ari Wuryantama and drove to the provincial capital Banda Aceh. He was the first western reporter to arrive in the devastated province, arriving at the same time as al-Jazeera, literally days ahead of major world broadcasters such as the BBC and CNN. His heart-rending pictures and accounts of the carnage in Banda Aceh and down the west coast of Aceh were all world exclusives, told not with the breathless self-importance of some foreign correspondents, but with humanity.



Peter Lloyd



Geoff Thompson

Particularly telling was Palmer's report from Leupung, the west coast town where the tsunami washed on to limestone cliffs and back out killing 95% of the population.

Palmer was ably supported by correspondents Peter Lloyd, Geoff Thompson and later on by a number of others including China Correspondent John Taylor, Philip Williams from London, and PNG Correspondent Shane McLeod. While the ABC presented an overview of the disaster that spanned the whole Indian Ocean, commercial networks tended to lose the big picture by chasing the stories of Australian victims and survivors.

ABC Managing Director Russell Balding called the coverage, '...testament not only to the dedication of our news and current affairs colleagues but also to the commitment of the ABC to maintain overseas bureaux. Only the ABC had the capacity and local knowledge to get the story first. That is not a boast. It is our job.'

The Government Should Rebuild Radio Australia



Kevin Rudd Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs writes after the tsunami

"There is some criticism contained in this point, the Government should rebuild Radio Australia. We have already attacked the Government's decision to sell Radio Australia's massive Cox Peninsula transmitters several years ago.

Prior to that, Radio Australia could broadcast a clear signal across all of Southeast Asia, South Asia and much of the Indian Ocean. Radio Australia's remaining transmitters are only capable of broadcasting to eastern Indonesia and the southwest Pacific. To supplement, Radio Australia now has to beg, borrow and buy transmission space from other private transmitters across the region, resulting in an erosion of the historical predictability of the Radio Australia broadcast to the wider region.

We now find ourselves in the bizarre situation that if we commit to a large scale, long-term role in the rebuilding of tsunami-affected areas across South and Southeast Asia we will have denied ourselves much of the broadcast capability to tell the communities across the region what we are doing.

The Government knows this is a dumb decision. On the back of this disaster it should fix it. "

The Australian 5 Jan 05

It's worth noting that a recent recommendation to boost Radio Australia's funding was ignored. Sheena Maclean wrote the following article in The Australian in June last year.

In the middle of 2004 a parliamentary inquiry into Australia's relationship with Indonesia urged increased funding for the ABC's Radio Australia to enable it to resume high levels of programming into Indonesia.

The report of the inquiry was tabled on 31 May. It says that Radio Australia 'is an extremely powerful and relatively cost-effective' means of reaching into Indonesia and promoting greater understanding of Australia. It recommends that the ABC's international radio and online service dramatically increase its programming, restoring it to the previous high levels of the 1970s and '80s.

It recommends the Australian Broadcasting Authority examine the cost and feasibility of Radio Australia using spare short-wave capacity so it can broadcast into Indonesia on multiple frequencies.

In the 1970s and '80s its Indonesian audience was estimated at 20 million. It is now down to about 5.4 million. 'Our audience figures are lower now than they were but you have to take into account that between 1997 and 2000 we had no transmission whatsoever,' says Jean-Gabriel Manguy, head of Radio Australia.



Cox Peninsula Transmitter

bb

ALSTON'S FINAL FAILURE, ABA'S BOB EACH WAY



Give up now!

The ABA has dismissed the vast majority of complaints lodged by the former Communications Minister Richard Alston against the ABC's radio program AM. In the final wash-up, the Authority determined that the program had failed on four occasions to make "every reasonable effort" to ensure the program was balanced and impartial in its coverage of the invasion of Iraq from the 21st of March to the 11th of April, 2003.

So after almost two years of intense scrutiny and their passage through five layers of internal, independent and external complaint review processes, 21 of Alston's original 68 complaints were upheld in some form.

Earlier in the process, the ABC's Independent Complaints Review Panel (ICRP) found 17 breaches – 12

for so-called 'serious bias,' 4 for editorialising, and one for an inadequate disclosure of sources.

Most of the complaints upheld pertained to reporters or presenters construing or attributing feelings or opinions to US officials that the complaint reviewers felt amounted to speculation.

The ICRP and ABA both took issue with reporters and presenters showing what many people would consider healthy scepticism and using terms such as spin-doctoring or propaganda in reference to various spokesmen and women for the U.S. government and military. ABA Acting Chair, Lyn Maddock said that 'While scepticism and probing questions are a useful way to explore issues, when a program uses tendentious language in connection with a controversial matter, listeners are likely to understand that the program favours a particular view of the issue.'

Overall the ABA found that AM presented a range of views and perspectives during the period in question, and was balanced.

However in a bizarre conclusion that would seem to say more about the regulator than the ABC, Ms Maddock went on to say that the complaint findings compromised the quality of AM's coverage of the Iraq War.

At the time a draft copy of the report was leaked to Media Watch last year, David Marr called it probably the silliest ABA report he'd read in the three years he'd been presenting Media Watch, and further evidence that the Authority doesn't really know how journalism works.

ABC Managing Director Russell Balding welcomed the part of the report that found AM's reporting was balanced, and noted that the breaches related to a few minutes out of many hours of coverage of the war

He also voiced continuing concerns that the basis on which the ABA seeks to justify its conclusions is flawed, and said he remains of the view that AM's extensive coverage of the war in Iraq was professional, comprehensive and balanced.

ABC JOURNALIST VINDICATED

The following excerpts are from Adjudication No.1257 by the Australian Press Council (adjudicated October 2004; re-issued December 2004)

The Press Council has upheld a complaint by an Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) correspondent against the Sydney Daily Telegraph over a bylined opinion column dealing with the aftermath of the killing of an Australian-born 15-year-old girl by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem.

The Piers Akerman column claimed that the correspondent, Tim Palmer, had revealed either "an appalling absence of any moral compass" or "a total lack of understanding of the [Israeli-Palestinian] conflict".

At the core of the dispute was an attempt by Mr Palmer to organise a feature story based on interviews with both Mr Roth and the father of the Palestinian bomber. At first Mr Roth agreed, but that was before he knew that the bomber's father was to be included in the story. Mr Roth was immediately outraged at what he regarded as gross insensitivity and an attempt to create a false symmetry between the two deaths. Mr Palmer dropped the project.

The Piers Akerman commentary criticised Mr Palmer

and the ABC's "babbling" about balance, asking: "Does it [the ABC] believe there can be some balance, some symmetry, some moral equivalence in presenting the father of a murdered teenager who spent her school holidays providing care for severely handicapped children and the father of a young man who believed it was his religious duty to murder innocent people?"

In his complaint Mr Palmer says that since the project was dropped, Mr Akerman could not possibly have known what form the story would have taken or how the two projected interviews would have been used.

Mr Palmer, who says he was on the scene of the bombing within five minutes, quotes a paragraph from the report he provided for the ABC programme AM a day later: "When the Islamic Jihad group first claimed responsibility for this blast, it described the action as heroic, but this was cowardly butchery. Indiscriminate in cutting down the old and the very young, it is believed as many as six of the dead are infants."

The published opinion was based on an assumption of the facts, without seeking any input from the ABC journalist. As a result, the article was unbalanced and unfairly derogatory of Mr Palmer, characterising him in a manner not justified by the matters raised in the column. For these reasons the complaint is upheld.

An even harder time for Aunty

Trish Bolton lectures in Media Studies at Swinburne University. She's a member of a working party on cross-media ownership set up by Friends of the ABC. She wrote this article for the website New Matilda.com in February.

In July it is predicted that cross-media ownership rules will be abolished by the Howard Government and Aunty might be in a spot of bother.

Those of us feeling a touch paranoid about Packer owning Fairfax, or Murdoch getting his hands on a television station, are somewhat consoled by the presence of the ABC. Yet how realistic is it to expect that an underfunded and besieged Aunty will be able to perform her watchdog role when the pack is baying for her blood?

The ABC has already paid dearly for scrutinising government and big business without fear or favour, and for behaving as if she's a guardian of the Fourth Estate. Politicians of all persuasions have been cross with her; most recently it was nasty old Dick Alston, but Paul Keating, Bob Hawke, not to mention Aunty's favourite nephew, Jeff Kennett, have all been equally displeased with her coverage during their period in office.

Let's not point out the bleeding obvious here.

But nothing holds a candle to the present government's war of attrition; boards stacked with liberal cronies, budgets decimated and reporters vilified. A now vulnerable Aunty has to bend over backwards to please the hand that feeds her, bowing to populist demand, and even lifting her skirts, to chase ratings.

Outsourced and demoralised as she is, she's had more than a little success to boast of to a board more interested in dollars than a Charter that talks about the public interest. It would be churlish not to acknowledge the quality of some popular programming but imprudent not to consider what is being lost in order to seduce new audiences who want little more

from Aunty than for her to entertain them.

And what does this mean for some of Aunty's lesser known relatives including Radio National; a public sphere of ideas where interviews last longer than a soundbite and journalists investigate to bring us content that restores some balance to the pervading dross, which if you let it, might amuse you to death.

Radio National is intellectual, esoteric and sometimes challenging, but as Philip Adams often reminds us, only Gladys is listening. He's not joking; with ratings at less than three per cent, you had better enjoy it while you can – such an under-performer is sure to be on Howard's hit list.

ABC's flagship radio current affairs show, AM (along with The World Today and PM) had better watch its back, too; AM was accused of more than sixty counts of serious bias when reporting the allied invasion of Iraq. A subsequent independent investigation severely embarrassed the Howard Government and Senator Alston, the then Federal Communications Minister, who had made the allegations, by finding all but two of the charges unfounded. It's not surprising then, that a government used - with a few notable exceptions - to a sycophantic press, becomes incensed when held accountable.

Aunty has, in her many incarnations, under intense political examination and often deprived circumstances, bonded Australians far and wide, in cities, country regions and the outback; a network of diverse, yet shared identity, which talked of nation and nationhood, community and kinship. She has not however, spared us a 'warts-and-all' look at ourselves.

A very first memory of ABC television was a Four Corners episode that brought home to me the absolute neglect of Aboriginal people, which in my outer suburban enclave, had never intruded upon my consciousness, let alone my conscience. It was an awakening that could not, indeed cannot take place on commercial tele-

vision, where national identity is defined by narrow and superficial representations of what it means to be Australian.

Aunty, once proud of nurturing her country's cultural heart, now has few opportunities to offer the artists, writers, orchestras et al, the creative sanctuary previously found at the ABC. Media barons, while clearly devotees of popular culture, steer away from anything that might alienate the large audiences advertisers seek.

Their financial interests are much better served by imported fare (and I'm not talking SBS world movies here) than pleasing a measly two or even five percent of the Australian population.

There is no doubt that monopoly power in Australia's media is set to increase to levels that puts democracy dangerously at risk. Aunty, whose commercial yet editorially independent ally, Fairfax, likely to be swallowed whole by Packer, will have no-one to cry wolf when she too, gets 'done over'.

Aunty's been starved of funding, beaten into submission and found wanting. But she's still our ABC and her Australian family needs her more than ever. **bb**

Come in Spinner

Crikey columnist "Outside Centre" has drawn attention to the popularity of ABC radio commentator Kerry O'Keefe. More than 500 fans lined up outside the ABC Shop Brisbane's Indooroopilly Shopping Town before Xmas to get the 70s era spinner to sign copies of his autobiography, "According to Skull." (ABC Books) "Outside Centre" noted that O'Keefe calls ABC cricket matches in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, but doesn't get to go to other capitals because of "budget restraints".

BEST OF THE FABC BULLETIN

The FABC Bulletin is an email update with the latest news about the ABC. It's available to all members who subscribe to the FABCList.

3 Dec - LANDLINE UNCHANGED IN 2005

The one-hour program "will return in 2005 at midday on Sundays". There had been rumours of a cut to a half-hour format. Apparently the decision was made after intense lobbying. (ABC Media Release 29/11, The Australian 2/12)

18 Feb - JONATHON SHIER: DUI

In court to face a drink driving charge "The former ABC chief Jonathan Shier told police he would not have driven his silver Saab convertible had he realised that four glasses of red wine would put him over the limit." The former ABC boss was fined and banned from driving. Apparently he has not found new employment and is "living off his capital". (SMH 13/01)

18 Feb - COST OF ABC BULLYING DEPENDS ON PERSPECTIVE

After a Senate estimates hearing focused on bullying of staff ABC MD Russell Balding said that \$1.98M was not the amount paid out for psychological injuries. It was the total workers compensation premium for 2003-04. The staff union says the premium has increased 63% because of the bullying. (The Australian 17/02)

1 Mar - MURDOCH COLUMNIST JANET ALBRECHTSEN MAKES ABC BOARD

The appointment for 5 years was immediately controversial (SMH 24/02). John Gallagher was reappointed for a second term. David Marr said he was stunned and that Albrechtsen had been exposed two years ago as "an extremely sloppy journalist" (Yahoo/ABC biznews 24/02). On AM the next morning Albrechtsen denied any conflict of interest, saying she was not a News employee but a contractor (ABC AM 25/02). She later said that "eliminating bias from the ABC" would be a major priority for her (SMH 27/02). The ABC Staff Union said she has "no relevant broadcasting or program-making experience" and repeated its call for reform of the method of board appointments (CPSU 25/02). Albrechtsen displayed her solicitor skills in a letter to the Herald repeating her statement that she was not a Murdoch employee but an "independent contractor".

1 Mar - COINCIDENTAL DOSH FOR REGIONAL RADIO

The day after Albrechtsen's appointment, it was announced that more money would go to "a new subsidy scheme" for regional communities. The Government will allocate \$1.5 million to enable up to 50 rural and regional communities to access five ABC radio services, including Radio National and NewsRadio. The money will go to installing transmitters."

ONLINE FORUM FEEDBACK

The FABC List is a forum for passionate debate on all matters pertaining to Aunty.

Here's a taste of some of the issues that FABC members have debated over the last few months.

The F* Word . Janet Simpson took issue with some fruity language in the Summer book reading on RN, in particular the repetitive use of the F* Word. Janet said she looks to the ABC to present higher standards and wondered whether the ABC was chasing rating by lowering standards. This prompted several responses. Darce Cassidy said he could remember it being used in a program he produced on then-Radio 2 more than thirty years ago. Jill Keogh said that the f-word was liberated in the 50s by the Beat Generation. She said she would know because she was there!

Carnivale . Some folks on the Central Coast approached FABC Board member Klaas Woldring wondering why the mysterious American-produced drama had been shown at all. It wasn't a mystery to Ron Dale and Ariel Marguin who said they loved it. Comments to the List indicated Carnivale had an appeal across a number of age groups. FABC Webmaster Mike Hudson said his two sons didn't miss an episode. Neither did John Neilson – who describes himself as "73 going on 16."

New Dimensions program on RN. Richard Gates of Evans Head asked "Please, please oh please deliver us from the drivel served up in New Dimensions." Annie Nielsen from the Parramatta Branch didn't agree. She thought each of the programs she'd listened to was excellent. Roger Gould thought the program was a "mind-opener."

Successful complaints. Moya Crowe also reported on her success in getting the ABC to address two of her complaints. Moya emailed ABC TV to complain about the new weather map being hard to read. She got a reply the next day to say others had said the same and that it was going to be altered.

As a wearer of hearing aids she also asked if The World Today could adjust the level of Eleanor Hall's voice to nearer the level of the taped reports, so she didn't have to be constantly turning the volume on her hearing aids up and down. She got another immediate and a positive response.

To follow the debate on the FABCList and receive the FABC Bulletin, send an e-mail to: fabclist@fabcnsw.org.au with SUBSCRIBE as the only entry in the Subject line and your full name and phone number in the body of the e-mail.

If at any stage you don't wish to receive these Bulletins simply reply to your e-mail and write "Unsubscribe Bulletin" in the subject line.

ABC's Walkley Triumph

Congratulations to all the ABC winners in the annual Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

The ABC's Foreign Affairs Editor Peter Cave won the awards for Radio News and TV News for his reports into the capture of the American hostage Thomas Hamill in Iraq. The reports were a world-wide scoop and the footage even ended up in Mike Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11.

Rafael Epstein and Nick McKenzie won the Radio Current Affairs award for their report into allegations of police corruption in Victoria, while the RN's Late Night Live team won the Radio Feature category for their "Solomon Islands Series."

Media Watch won the TV Current Affairs award for its piece "Cash for Comment II and Professor Flint's Fan Mail." Lateline's Tony Jones also took out the Walkley for Broadcast Interviewing.

The Walkley Awards History

"Australia's journalists know that winning a Walkley is a reason to celebrate. It is the recognition by one's peers that special initiative deserves a special reward. To the winner it means all those years of training and being barked at by demanding editors were not entirely in vain".- John Hurst, author of The Walkley Awards

The annual Walkley Awards recognize excellence in Australian journalism across all mediums including print, television, radio, photographic and online media. The prestigious Gold Walkley is considered the pinnacle of journalistic achievement and the awards are akin only to the esteemed Pulitzer Prizes.

The Walkleys were established in 1956, with five categories, by Ampol Petroleum founder Sir William Gaston Walkley. He envisaged awards that recognised emerging talent

in the Australian media. Since then, winning stories have chronicled Australia's history, people and events.

Today, the Walkleys has grown to more than 30 award categories with an estimated 1000 entries pouring in each year as journalists around the country aspire for the pinnacle of Australian journalistic achievement.

Over the past 46 years some of the top names in Australian journalism have been honoured by the awards including: Kerry O'Brien, Mark Davis, Mike Steketee, Tony Koch, Marian Wilkinson, Helen Dalley, Liz Jackson, Chris Masters, Bill Leak, Ron Tandberg, Evan Whitton, Alan Hall, Adele Horin, Paul Bongiorno, Peter Nicholson, Jenny Coopes, Monica Attard, David Dare Parker and many more.

The Walkley Awards have continued to develop with the ever-changing media, adapting existing categories and recognising new areas of journalism.

30 Years in 30 Days



In January 2005, triple j - Australia's only national youth network - celebrated its 30th anniversary. To mark this major milestone in its - and indeed the ABC's history - triple j broadcast, across all programs, 30 Years in 30 Days a special series of features and segments. These reflected the events that have shaped the network, music and Australian youth culture over the last three decades.

triple j's significance was highlighted with mini documentaries looking at its stand against music censorship, its influence on the live music scene, its role in

fostering Australian music and the part it has played in Australian youth culture since it opened as 2JJ in Sydney in 1975. In 1981 the station moved to the FM band as 2JJJ then by 1990 had expanded to the triple j network, available in capital cities and Newcastle. By 1996 triple j could be heard in 48 regional areas.

30 Years in 30 days kicked off on 19 January with the best of the musicians who have been unearthed by triple j in the last few years paying musical homage to those who went before them.

update

Print Post Approved PP 245059/00002

Update is published four times a year by Friends of the ABC NSW, P.O. Box 1391, North Sydney 2059.

Phone 9810 3358 To become a member phone 9990 0600 or visit our web site at: www.fabcnsw.org.au/

Extracts from newspapers and other publications appearing in Update do not necessarily reflect members' views.

Update goes to all members of FABC (NSW) Inc., as part of the membership fee. Update is also supplied to journalists, politicians and libraries across Australia. It is produced and edited in Sydney but contributions are welcome from NSW country and interstate branches. Material may be freely quoted or reproduced from the newsletter provided the source is acknowledged and reproduction is sent to FABC's President Gary Cook, Editor Alison Rahill, Layout, format and assembly Irwin Kurtz. Unattributed text is by the editor. email: fabcnsw@fabcnsw.org.au

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STOP PRESS

Alison Rahill has resigned as Editor of Update. We thank her for her efforts of the past two issues.

ABC Launches New Digital TV Channel

The ABC will begin transmission of a new free-to-air digital TV channel - ABC2 - on 7 March, marking a significant development in free-to-air digital TV in Australia. ABC2 will broadcast a wide range of new and repeat programs including children's, regional, documentary and arts as well as international and regional news coverage.

ABC2 will be a complementary service to the main ABC TV channel, offering time-shifted programming by which audiences can see favourite programs again or catch programs they missed on the main channel. These will include Foreign Correspondent, Australian Story, At the Movies, Catalyst and Gardening Australia. It will also offer a range of new programs.

The addition of the new digital channel to ABC services means that families and children can now, by

switching between the main channel and ABC2 each weekday, access a total of 13 hours of continuous, safe and trusted ABC Kids programming. The channel will also cater for young teens.

The new digital channel will have a strong regional and rural focus with repeat screenings of Landline and the opportunity for

viewers around the country to view all eight versions of Stateline. A new prime time fifteen-minute regional news program, Australia Wide will be exclusive to ABC2. International news and analysis programs will be an integral part of the ABC2 schedule with the ABC Asia Pacific TV program Hemispheres being broadcast in Australia for the first time.

An innovative component of ABC2 will be the use of content created for both broadband and television out-

put. This means audiences will be able to see some programs (such as Australia Wide) on ABC2 or watch them as video on demand

on the companion ABC Broadband service online at abc.net.au/broadband. Other integrated TV and broadband programming will include a variety of regularly up-dated news, business, sport and rural bulletins.

ABC2 will be on channel 21 on free to air digital television, on channel 126 on Foxtel Digital and Austar, on channel 22 on TransACT in Canberra and on channel 20 on Neighbourhood Cable in Victoria.

inside the abc feb. 2005 No. 29



TOUGH TIMES FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTERS

It's been a bad few months all round for the world's public broadcasters.

In December, the first round of extensive job cuts was announced at the world's foremost public broadcaster, the BBC. 1,900 posts were axed from support services and the factual and learning department. Most of the first wave of support cuts will come from the BBC's human resources department, with other substantial cuts in finance and property, marketing, policy and legal, and strategy and distribution.

The exact scope of the cuts remains a subject of much conjecture, with estimates varying from 5000 jobs to up to 10,000 in a workforce of 27,000. Several commercial ventures are also for sale or inviting joint venture partners in an effort to direct an extra £320 million a year into improving programs.

British Union leaders say the job cuts are the biggest in BBC history



BBC staff held a day of action on March 2

paper on the future of the BBC advocated the scrapping the BBC's board of governors, and replacing it with an independent board of trustees. The new trust members will need relevant experience and background and be appointed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport under the Nolan rules.

British Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell guaranteed the BBC a 10-year charter from 2007 – but says the government would conduct a review of alternative methods of funding the BBC and investigate the possibility of a subscription-based system before the end of the next charter period.

and claim they could destroy the heart of the corporation. Further redundancies are expected to be announced soon in other areas, including news.

On the 1st of March a British government green

In Japan, the Chairman of the Japan's national broadcaster, NHK, Katsuji Ebisawa, resigned on the 25th of January after months of public pressure for him to take the blame for a series of financial scandals in the corporation. The controversies have led to a budgetary crisis at Japan's public broadcaster, with over 100,000 households refusing to pay Japan's mandatory licence fees.

The scandal began erupted when a producer was found to have embezzled more than half a million dollars in funds for program production. Several other staff members were also reported later to have engaged in embezzlement, fictitious business trips and irregular accounting operations.

Ebisawa also came under fire for ordering NHK producers not to broadcast live his testimony as a witness on the scandals at a parliamentary committee hearing. The last straw came when an NHK whistleblower alleged that the network had bowed to political pressure to tone down a program on Japan's wartime atrocities.

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Adam Singer is a Content Board Member of the British communications regulator, Ofcom.

This is an abridged transcript of a speech he gave at Britain's Voice of the Listener & Viewer's 10th International Conference at The Royal Society in London in February.

The full speech can be found on the VLV's website at www.vlv.org.uk.

Public Service Broadcasting has created major institutions of public service provision. But we must remember it is the fate of every institution to meet its Martin Luther. The Catholic Church could have defeated Luther but it could not defeat the combination of Luther and the new technology of the printing press. The printing press was to the Catholic Church what multi-channel television is proving to be to today's institutional public broadcasters.

The Music Hall met its Luther in the guise of The Cinema and Television.

The British Motorcycle Industry met its Luther in the guise of Soichiro Honda.

The most powerful telephone company in the world, Bell Telephone, met its Luther in the guise of Judge Green, who broke it up in the '80s, and last week the final part of Bell - AT&T - was gobbled up: an unthinkable thought in the first seventy years of the last Century.

Great institutions produce glories for us all, but they survive in direct proportion to their ability to maintain their relevance.

So different eras produce different economics, and different glories, and this is the issue Public Service Broadcasting is facing as it moves out of its cathedral age, and contemplates what form it should take to be relevant to a mass information age.

The key to analysing what is happening in television is simple. The principle is there is no such thing as technology, there is only an ever-

falling cost line. In the '90s it cost £4 million per annum to transmit to the home on satellite; it now costs under £500,000. The falling cost of technology changes the nature of program content. 'Big Brother' only exists because of the falling cost of cameras. As television distribution and reception gets ever cheaper you have more television signals, audiences fragment, and it gets harder to maintain a monolith like the BBC. If audience share - as more of us watch and use alternative services - falls, the harder it will be to sustain the BBC.

The choice is how do you harness and ride these economic forces for your own ends? The one choice you don't have is to ignore them. You can't slow it down, because we all demand the benefit of constant falling costs. For example, nearly every one of you has an electronic device that takes pictures, video, stores music, sends written messages, pulls down information, plays video games and you can talk to people on it - it's a mobile phone. At each purchase you are all signing a pact with the devil that says you are contributing to this economic force. You can't have those things and isolate television from that force.

So the cathedral-like Public Service Broadcasting of yesteryear that produced programmes like *Civilization* and *The Ascent of Man* start to change into new forms of Public Service Broadcasting. Of course as a society you can elect to have any Public Service Broadcasting that the citizen is prepared to pay for. But there are some questions you need to ask. Who is this public broadcasting for?

If everyone has a mobile phone capable of receiving video from the internet, as you all will have in ten years, what form does Public Service Broadcasting take on that? If museums can digitise their collections and put them out on broadband is this not a new Public Service Broadcasting that needs to be encouraged?

In this world of new PSB the rise of cheap storage means that continu-

ous streams of Public Service Broadcasting are not necessary, as you move to an on-demand world. You pull down the public service programme at the time most convenient to you.

As fragmentation and hard drive storage increases, advertising is going to be harder to sustain. The underlying pressure over the next ten years will be the rise of on-demand revenues. Today this is being driven by music services like Napster and Apple's iTunes, where you can download music tracks from the internet for 79 pence per tune. Music is always the first into a new, digital, economic model, and where music goes television always follows. If you doubt this downloading phenomenon, last December, the BBC streamed and downloaded 6 million programmes.

The ghastly truth is that if you don't have a mobile phone, don't use the Internet, and you are still receiving television as an off-air, five channel, analogue signal, you are as relevant to the future of this debate as a telex machine in a world of e-mail.

Nowhere have I said that change is good, but we can't preserve Public Service Broadcasting in aspic, nor should we. What we can do is keep reinventing PSB, so that it is relevant, and desired. The question we should be asking after the Catholicism of 80 years of institutional Public Service Broadcasting is, "What in this new technology world does Reformation Public Service Broadcasting look like, and how do we help create a new and different, but equally important, form of Public Service Broadcasting?"

What is Ofcom?

Ofcom is the regulator for the UK communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio, telecommunications and wireless communications services.

Ofcom exists to further the interests of citizen-consumers as the communications industries enter the digital age.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

NORTHERN RIVERS

The Northern Rivers branch of the Friends of the ABC began the year with a visit by recently retired ABC radio current affairs presenter John Highfield. John was the guest of honour at an inaugural meeting of the Tweed sub branch. 20 members attended the function that was held on Saturday 19 February at the Tweed/Gold Coast Campus of Southern Cross University.

The next evening John was keynote speaker at the Bangalow Bowling Club where 70 members attended and were enthralled by his lively address. John vividly recounted experiences as a foreign correspondent in Germany, Ireland and South Africa. His recollections at the national level included insights gained from informal press briefings with Malcolm Fraser, Gough Whitlam and John Howard in the 1970s.

John Highfield expressed concern over a creeping corporatism within the ABC. However he felt that regional radio in particular played an important role in reflecting community views and promoting democracy at a grassroots level.

It was great to have such a well-known ABC identity visiting the North Coast and his visit was given a high profile by ABC North Coast, as well as the Northern Rivers Echo, Byron Shire Echo and the Northern Star newspapers.

Branch members appreciated the role that he has played in addressing threats to the national broadcaster - especially in relation to access by advocacy groups and film makers to ABC archival material.

The next committee meeting will be held in mid April and the AGM for the branch will be held in May. Details will be provided in the local press and on the branch web site.

Neville Jennings

Holding a Friends event? Don't forget to let Update know... and please, please send us some photos!



A packed Bangalow Bowling Club, Northern Rivers Branch



John Highfield addresses Northern Rivers Friends

Visit La Perouse with a Tour of Bare Island



Sunday 17 April

Location: 11.30 tour of La Perouse Museum –
at your leisure (not organised)
12.00 – 1.15 Picnic (BYO)
with other FABC in park overlooking Bare Island
1.30 pm tour of Bare Island
(with National Parks & Wildlife guides)
Before departing visit the Snake Man (optional)

\$10 per person; \$8.00 concession for Bare Island Tour
Please ring to book for the Bare Island tour
as numbers are limited.

Ring: Gillian on Ph: 9144 2891, Ireen on Ph: 9745 4487,
Jason on Ph: 9489 1420 to secure your place.
Payment via credit card or cheque.

Bookings will close on 5th April unless filled earlier.

Plenty of parking for cars,
Bus departs city every 15 minutes from 10am,
duration of journey is 45 minutes.

Picnic on grass between octagonal stone fort
and Bare Island.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

HUNTER



1233 ABC Newcastle has confirmed a tour of the studios
Saturday April 9 at 10:30 am

Bring a picnic for lunch in the park adjacent to the studios
on the corner of Wood and Parry Streets
at Newcastle West.

Allan Thomas

ORANGE

The Orange Friends have decided to submit an entry to The Country Hour's 60th Anniversary Roadshow competition. One town in each state and the NT will be chosen to host an ABC Radio event. Cumnock near Wellington, was the first place from which The Country Hour was broadcast, and the Orange Friends will be stressing the historic links in their submission. Apart from a chance to be a part of history, the winning entries will get a 60th birthday BBQ, a community skills workshop, a free concert, and national ABC Radio exposure.

The Orange Friends will again have a stall at the city's annual Food Affair on April 1.

Bev Holland

CENTRAL COAST

Coffee, tea and FABC. Members of the Central Coast Branch have decided to meet informally each alternate month at the Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford. No meeting procedure, just an opportunity for members and friends to meet and exchange ideas. The meetings will be held at 2.30pm on the second Saturday of every odd month.

Our next meeting is 14 May, 2:30

Committee Meetings for 2005 will again be open to all members of the branch and will be held at the Central Coast Leagues Club on selected Saturdays from 2pm - 4pm.

This year's dates are:

Saturday 2 April, Saturday 4 June,
Saturday 6 August, Saturday 15 Oct.

John Hale

GREAT LAKES

The Branch is still hoping to arrange a date with Geraldine Doogue sometime soon. We'll have to accommodate Geraldine's new weekend working hours – she's presenting Saturday breakfast on Radio National.

Grahame Burns

PARRAMATTA

We had a post-election wake as our final meeting of the year, but were able to celebrate the fact that in Parramatta the national trend was reversed, and the sitting Liberal member, Ross Cameron, was defeated.

Plans for 2005 will focus on information and awareness-raising activities for people in the Parramatta area involving several guest speakers.

Watch for details in the next issue of Update.

Mal Hewitt

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Being a member of the Friends of the ABC means you're part of a truly national organisation.

Apart from the 15 branches in NSW there are branches in the capital of every other state and territory and more groups in country areas.

Branches organise a wide range of events for their members – from film nights and guest speaker gigs to simple coffee and a friendly chat.

So if you're interstate or in the regions, why not get in touch with the local Friends and pop in for a chat? After all, you're one of the family!

For information on the latest events go to the web www.fabcnsw.org.au Or you can call or email the local FABC contact person. They're easy to find – all their names are on the back page of Update.

Visit Henry Lawson Cave

at Flat Rock Gully

Thursday 5th May 2005 11:30am-1:30pm

Poems read by Don Swonnell 12 to 1
Members can bring a poem to have read
Bring a picnic lunch and a rug, cushion
or camp chair to sit on.



The Henry Lawson Cave

is located behind

Willoughby Leisure Centre (Small St., Willoughby)
rear car park on bike track 50 metres flat walk

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**NATIONAL RESOURCE
 CENTRE**
 Darce Cassidy
 www.friendsoftheabc.org

Membership form Please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to:

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.

Name		Email:	
Please Print			
Address		Suburb	P/Code
Phone (Home)	(Work)	Mob	
Federal Electorate			
Age Group	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 or under	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 51+
I would like to join <input type="checkbox"/>		I would like to renew <input type="checkbox"/>	
I am interested in helping <input type="checkbox"/>		I would like to join the email network <input type="checkbox"/>	
		(and help pass on information to members)	
I/We apply for membership of FABC (NSW) Inc. and accept its objectives and rules. Signature: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household	\$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	\$15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (covers 3 members)	\$60		
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a donation	\$ _____		
I am paying by		<input type="checkbox"/> cheque in favour of FABC (NSW) Inc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> money order	<input type="checkbox"/> bankcard	<input type="checkbox"/> mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> visa
Card number _____			
Name on credit card _____			
Expiry date _____			
Cardholders signature		Amount \$	