

Good news and bad news

The latest Federal budget did not contain any additional cuts to the funding of our national broadcaster. But this budget does nothing to reverse the earlier cuts in 2014. According to Australia Institute's review, spending on ABC and SBS operations and transmission will decline by \$43 million from \$1,461 million in 2016-17 to \$1,418 million in 2018-19. Perhaps Malcolm Turnbull's claim to be a small 'f' friend of the ABC has helped ABC and SBS funding to recover in 2020-21 to \$1,453 million, just \$8 million less than the start of this budget period.

Activities of your local group

Here's what the committee of Armidale FABC has been up to so far this year:

1. We had a stand at the 'Lifesaver Day' of the UNE's **Orientation Week**. Over fifty students enrolled as members of our group.
2. We were represented at the February and April **Sunday markets** in the Mall. At the former over 200 signatories were collected on ABC programming changes. This petition will be presented to the Federal Minister of Communication.
3. At the **March Armidale** rally in Central Park, our president, Bruce Stevenson, spoke eloquently about the importance of the ABC and of challenges to it (see photo). This talk will be posted on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/fabcarmidale/>.
4. This year's first issue of **Update**, the ABC Friends National newsletter, contained an excellent article by Bruce Stevenson for the Armidale group

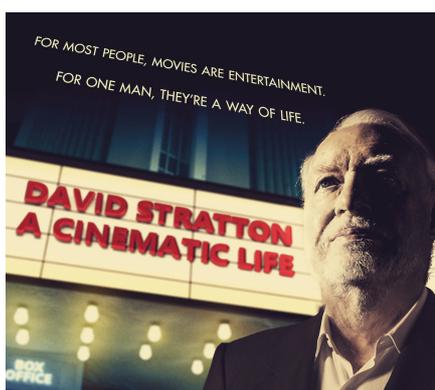


5. **Annual speaker** Many invitations were issued to ABC personnel and others to be our speaker for last year and this year (including Annabel Crabbe, Sarah Ferguson, Richard Glover, Charlie Pickering, and Tom Tilley), but none were successful. Our efforts are continuing. Part of the problem is an apparent ABC policy not to allow employees to be speakers at ABC Friends' functions! We have written to the ABC for clarification
6. **Committee meetings** are held quarterly in the Bowling Club. All FABC members are welcome to join. The next meetings will be on August 10th, November 9th and the AGM on December 7th.

How you can help the Armidale FABC group

- a) Consult our **Facebook page**, on which information about the ABC (and our group) is posted.
- b) Tell the committee how it can better serve local members: **suggest activities, functions** you would like, ways in which you yourself might assist. (An afternoon event with lunch, activities for children and discussion on **FABC's purpose, goals and outreach** is being considered for September. Your input here is invited.)
- c) If you have a journalistic bent and are a keen ABC listener and/or viewer, you could help with the writing of an article for the rural press on the value of the ABC to regional communities. (This could focus on any of the local, or RN, or News networks and outline why its various programs of particular value to country people. Please forward suggestions and offers of assistance to Priscilla Connor: priscilla.connor@inet.net.au)

Save the date!



On **July 20**, Armidale FABC will be presenting this feature documentary at the **Belgrave Cinema**. A quote from the film's website: "A compelling personal journey with David Stratton, as he relates the fascinating development of our cinema history. David guides us from his boyhood cinema experience of Australia in England, where he saw the first images of this strange and exotic landscape via the medium of film, to his migration to Australia as a '10 pound pom' in 1963 and onto his present day reflections on the iconic themes that run through our cinematic legacy. All of this reflects a passionate engagement in a uniquely Australian medium."

<http://www.transmissionfilms.com.au/films/david-stratton-a-cinematic-life>

Further information to come soon.