

Annual General Meeting: Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Armidale Friends of the ABC was held in Kent House in March. The committee was pleased to welcome three 'new faces' to its ranks: Robin Jones (publicity) and to the general committee long-time member Brian Byrne and Armidale newcomer Tom Tait. For the other positions membership remained unaltered: Bruce Stevenson (our industrious and creative president), Jeff Siegel (VP and newsletter); Peter Galbraith (treasurer), Liz O'Hara (membership, facebook page), Priscilla Connor (secretary) and general committee Elizabeth Peach, Gai Galbraith, Celia Kennedy, and Hani and Izabel Soliman.

President Bruce gave an inspiring introductory talk before thanking committee members for their work throughout the previous year. This included participation in March Armidale early in 2017, a film night featuring a documentary on David Stratton's long career as a promoter of Australian films, regular market presences, newsletters, participation in the National conference of ABC Friends and the promotion of the ABC among UNE students (representation at O-week and the offering of a prize for an outstanding student in UNE Media Studies).

The AGM was followed by sociable chatting over drinks and finger food, then an address by the recently installed State President, Ed Davis. His audience was increased by a number of members who came specifically to hear him (see the photo below). Copies of the speeches of both Ed and Bruce are attached to this newsletter.



Dates for your diaries

Committee meetings at Kent House 5.30 pm: May 30th, August 29th, November 28th; Market presence: May 27th, August 26th or Sept 30th, Nov 25th and/or December 16th. Participation from general members very welcome!

Annual lecture

Unfortunately your committee has been unable to attract ABC presenters over the last year or so. This may be attributed in part to the funding cuts to the ABC which have left journalists with heavy workloads and a lack of support staff. However, attempts are being made to contact popular presenters both young and long-term. If you have suggestions of whom you would like to attract here, please let the committee know, especially if you can indicate how best to contact them (please email priscilla.connor@iinet.net.au).

Membership:

At present, 58 of our members belong to ABC Friends NSW & ACT. This form of membership is preferable to the local one (25 members) because it strengthens the organisation's influence nationally. Encourage your friends to join by going to the FABC website – www.fabcnsw.org.au. And read the many interesting news items it contains. Also you may like to refer to our group's Facebook page – www.facebook.com/fabcarmidale.

