

## FINALLY, SOME GOOD NEWS!

Here's an extract from a report by Matthew Knott in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (24 September): "The ABC is hopeful the installation of Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister will allow it to claw back some of the \$250 million slashed from the broadcaster last year as tension between the government and broadcaster cools off. The shift from Tony Abbott to Mr Turnbull represents a change at the top of the government from one of the Coalition's biggest critics of the ABC to one of its biggest supporters. 'There will be no more culture wars', a Liberal source said, flagging an end to the open hostilities between the government and the ABC during recent times.

"The ABC is preparing to begin negotiations with the government for its next three-year funding arrangement, due to be announced in next year's budget. There is renewed hope within the broadcaster ... that some extra funds may flow to the ABC following Mr Abbott's removal.

"Australia's new Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Mitch Fifield [pictured], says he will 'ensure the ABC is well-resourced to do the job that Australians want it to do'

"One option would be for the government to maintain the \$250 million in cuts over five years handed down last year but soften them by introducing new funding for specific initiatives. These could include tied funding for regional news or Australian drama, both of which would be popular with the Nationals and the general public.

"Senator Fifield told Radio National: '... one thing is certain: we as a government will ensure that the ABC is well-resourced to do the job that Australians want it to do. I don't want to pre-empt where the triennial funding will end up, but look, we're a government that recognises the important role that the ABC plays.'"



## FOR YOUR DIARIES: **ONE PLUS ONE** with JANE HUTCHEON

One of our most engaging interviewers and journalists, Jane Hutcheon from ABC TV, will be this year's Armidale FABC speaker. She will go "one on one" with one of our own media insiders, freelance journalist Janene Carey, to explore the art of the interview.



Jane will share many anecdotes from the amusing to the profound that have come out of her interviews with a broad range of individuals including Hollywood celebrities, chefs, actors, musicians, CEOs and a fascinating range of everyday people with extraordinary stories.

Jane has been a reporter for 20 years, beginning with radio and television in Hong Kong, then SBS television before joining the ABC in 1994. After her posting as the ABC's China correspondent, she returned to Australia in 2001 to present ABC TV's national midday news bulletin 'World at Noon'. She presented the ABC's live coverage on the morning of September 12, 2001 and was in the chair during the Tampa crisis, the 2001 Federal Election and the US led war in Iraq.

Jane was the ABC's Middle East correspondent in 2003-2004 and covered stories including the war in Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, elections in Iran, terrorist bombings in Istanbul and the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. She speaks French and is fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese.

**Friday 13 November, 7.30 pm, Armidale Bowling Club** (bar open at 6.30)

**Tickets: \$12 ABC Friends members, \$15 non-members**

Available from Carr's News Agency and at the door. Enquiries: 6771 1828