

Jane Hutcheon “One on One”

The FABC evening with Jane Hutcheon last November proved to be a most enjoyable and informative event, thanks to the excellent interviewing of Jane by our local journalist/writer, Janene Carey, and the warm, full responses of Jane. The local committee is grateful to FABC members for their attendance and for their interesting questions. Thankyou!

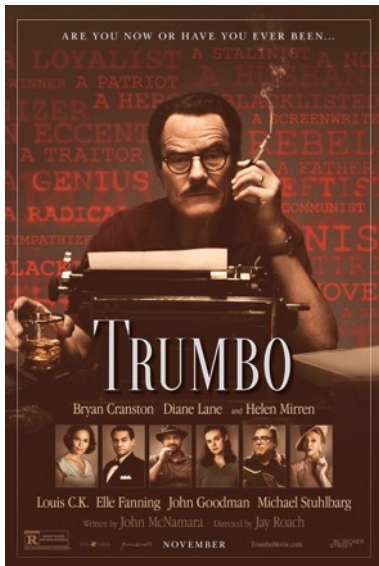
Jane herself was delighted with her large, intelligent audience and the pleasant, if brief, time that she and her small family had in our town.



Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in the week following Jane’s talk. After giving his full, positive report, the president, Jeff Siegel stood down. He will continue to serve both as membership secretary and vice-president. Bruce Stevenson is the new president. He is being ably supported by the following committee members: Linda Andrews (treasurer), Jenni Ford (publicity/ events co-ordinator), Priscilla Connor (secretary), Vicki Coleman, Gai Galbraith, Kaye Mill, Elizabeth Peach, and Hani and Izabel Soliman. Barbara Barton and Val Sherwell are taking a break. Both were warmly thanked. They will be missed. Val has been an active member for the past thirteen years. She has, however, offered to continue to organise our presence in the Mall market every second month. Barbara was the driving force behind the annual talks and publicity. The branch wishes her a safe and stimulating road trip around Australia this year.

Fundraising Film Evening at the Belgrave Cinema on Thursday, March 17th



Please enter this date in your diary! The film will be Trumbo, starring Bryan Cranston (nominated for a 2016 Academy Award), Diane Lane and Helen Mirren. It follows the life of the Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo who, in the McCarthy era, suffered a gaol term and blacklisting for defending freedom of speech and his political beliefs.

For more information, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trumbo_\(2015_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trumbo_(2015_film)) or <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/trumbo/>.

Funds will go to the ABC Friends national campaign and to support the new Armidale Friends of the ABC annual prize for an outstanding media student at UNE.

Tickets are \$15 for FABC members (\$17 non-members) and will be available from Jenni (0409 181 947) or Kaye(0431 825 254).

Further details of the evening will be given in future emails. The committee thanks Jenni Ford for organising this event and the Belgrave cinema for suggesting this provocative film.

National Campaign to extend Friends’ membership and to widen support for the ABC

This year, not only is the highly effective General Manager of our national broadcaster, Mark Scott, standing down, but its triennial funding will be announced in the May budget. Lobbying for adequate funding for the ABC is therefore really important. A former Member for New England and Leader of the National Party, Ian Sinclair, was an active advocate for the ABC in government, and even attended the ABC’s regional advisory meetings, then held in Tamworth. Perhaps we could all urge Mr Barnaby Joyce to follow his example!

Meantime, your local committee has forwarded \$1000 of funds that you helped to raise to support the national ABC Friends’ campaign. It also needs your help in extending the Armidale Friends of the ABC membership and the community’s understanding and appreciation of the ABC.