

ABC funding for 2016-2019

In the recent Federal Government's budget another \$50 million was cut from the triennial funding of the ABC. This means that since 1985 the ABC has had its finances reduced by over 25%. Despite this, ABC services have been extensively increased, with TV3 for kids a special favourite with families, and electronic media serving 'mobile' generations.

Federal Election

Armidale FABC will send members to public meetings held by candidates for New England. The aim is to extract from them promises of better support for the ABC. The secretary will also write to each candidate asking for his/her commitment to work for increased funding and more local content in regional radio programming. FABC members are urged to do their own lobbying as well.

National ABC Friends Campaign

The NSW executive of ABC Friends has decided – with the approval of local groups including our own – that \$20,000 of its budget be given to the national campaign. This campaign is designed to increase Friends' membership and to raise the profile of ABC Friends and its work. More importantly, it is hoped that the campaign will raise awareness of the importance of the ABC in our nation. Our group has already given \$1000 to this campaign.

Market presences

At least once each season Armidale FABC has a 'stall' in the Sunday Mall markets. Last time a small survey on the ABC was conducted with people who were willing to stop and talk. At the next one – June 26th – promotional materials will be distributed to willing recipients and each will be asked to name her/his favourite ABC television program. In this way some meaningful engagement with the public is attempted. Friends of Armidale's group are encouraged to spend an hour on this stall in the hope of increasing engagement. To participate in this way is actually enjoyable! Please let the secretary know if you are willing to help: priscilla.connor@iinet.net.au or 6772 2217.

Speaker for 2016

Annabelle Crabbe has indicated that she MAY be able to come in the second half of the year. She would be a drawcard for many, so the committee is crossing their respective fingers that she can make it. Previous speakers have included Philip Adams, Geraldine Doogue, Kerry O'Brien, David Stratton, Anton Enus, Tim Bowden, Emma Ayres (classic FM), Jennifer Ingall (ABC Tamworth) and Jane Hutcheon.

The group has also agreed to support the International Film Festival committee by financially supporting another visit by David Stratton in 2017.

Prize for UNE Media Student

In the name of the FABC an award of \$1000 will be made annually to a promising media student at the UNE. The first will be given next year.

Update

Update is the newsletter of the of national body of ABC Friends, appearing three times a year. Members of the NSW and ACT branch receive it by email. The latest issue is available online at http://www.fabcnsw.org.au/Update/update_2016/Update2016_4.pdf. A few of the latest issues are also available at our local municipal library

Flashback

The photo shows intrepid FABC members "visiting" our local MP's office in September 2014. Note the peace offerings of a cake and bananas (without pajamas).

