

TRIENNIAL FUNDING, A CURATE'S EGG



The ABC Chairman, Donald McDonald, described the Budget outcome "as the best for the ABC in more than twenty years". He added, "This new funding is tremendous for ABC audiences and will help maintain a strong and vibrant national broadcaster into the future."

"The extra funds for television content will ensure an increase in the level and diversity of locally made drama, documentary and children's drama programs available to the Australian public," Mr McDonald said.

"It will allow the ABC to further develop its partnerships with independent producers."

Mr McDonald said the Budget marked the culmination of not only the regular triennial funding review of the ABC, but also an independent review of the adequacy and efficiency of ABC funding conducted by KPMG.

"Most importantly, the triennial funding outcome provides certainty, allowing the ABC to face the future with confidence and set strategic priorities for the next three years and beyond."

"In a changing media environment, work is already underway within the ABC to set priorities for the type of content we need to provide on radio and television, along with ABC Online and new digital media platforms to best serve our audience."

"The ABC will continue to pursue efficiencies internally in order to maximise the content that is produced for the benefit of all Australians," Mr McDonald concluded.

Modest Increase in Base funding

The Minister announced that for the next triennium, the ABC would receive a modest increase in its base funding and, in addition, \$88.2 million for new initiatives over the next three years. The components of the additional (tied) funding are:

- ▲ \$13.2 million increase for National Interest Initiatives (rural and regional services)
- ▲ \$45.0 million for renewal of capital equipment
- ▲ \$30.0 million for new Australian television content production (specifically to enable the ABC to establish an independent commissioning arm to invest in high quality drama and documentaries)

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Our Parliamentarians Hard At Work

At least twice a year, ABC executives travel to Canberra to appear before the Senate Estimates Committee. The Committee has representation from most parties but the party with the majority in the Senate also has the numbers on the Committee.

Standing Order 26 (5) provides that committees may ask for explanations from ministers in the Senate, or officers of organisations, relating to the items of proposed expenditure. Officials are questioned directly by committee members about the objectives, operational procedures and efficiency of the programs for which they are responsible.

But when the proceedings commence, the venom and pedantry directed towards the ABC and its executives by some senators provides an insight into the hostility with which the ABC has to contend

During the recent hearings, Senator Michael Ronaldson (Liberal, Victoria) asked 139 questions of John Cameron, Director of News and Current Affairs and Steven Alward, his head of Policy and

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Introspection on the Central Coast

On 8th April, the Central Coast FABC held an introspective meeting to become more focused on aims and on how to achieve them. Three visitors from NSW FABC, Gary Cook, Jason Lowe and Mal Hewitt addressed the gathering, answered questions and joined in discussions on lobbying and letter-writing. The Branch decided there was a need to research target politicians before approaching them.

Gary Cook left a small number of *Fact or Fiction* pamphlets to help counter the Federal Government's rubbery figures. The cost of running the entire ABC is about 13c per day for each Australian because the cost covers Channel 2, national and local radio networks, Triple J and overseas broadcasting, as well as other parts of the Corporation. The contribution of the ABC to rural Australia, especially during local crises such as bushfires, floods and the recent cyclone, means that it has support in many National Party areas and this fact can be driven home when lobbying National Party politicians.

The Central Coast FABC decided it is important to find out more about the politicians and how the ABC contributes to their electorates so that face-to-face contact with them can focus on representing local opinion regarding the ABC. The Branch is focusing on four issues when lobbying politicians:

- 1 Adequate funding for the ABC
- 2 Editorial independence, especially when appointments are made to the ABC Board
- 3 Opposition to commercials on the ABC which would water down programs for a broader commercial appeal
- 4 Maintenance of a staff representative on the ABC Board

When discussing membership, Jason Lowe outlined ideas that have worked elsewhere such as stalls where a range of FABC merchandise is available for sale and organising tours of the ABC in Ultimo

All who attended the afternoon's session on building the Branch indicated a renewed interest in the role of FABC and a greater determination to campaign for improvements for the ABC. Other events have also been planned including:

- 2 July:**
Guest Speaker, Geraldine Doogue
- 12 August:**
Coffee afternoon
- 3 September:**
Guest Speaker, Damien Beaumont from ABC Classic FM
- 9 September:**
Coffee afternoon
- 21 October:**
Committee Meeting
- November:**
Guest Speaker, Kerry O'Brien from 7.30 Report

Enquiries about these events can be made to: John Hale Ph. 4333 8107



Blue Mountains

Amazingly good weather and a huge crowd turned the stall run by the FABC at the Springwood Foundation Day in April into its most successful one ever.

Many people were interested and sympathetic, happy to sign the postcards on drama for us to send to politicians, and even to make a donation towards postage. Lots of merchandise was sold under our fresh banner (donated) and everyone had a great time.

The Branch is now looking forward to the *Winter Magic Festival* in Katoomba on 24 June, where Members hope they will again have an effective position and tremendous rapport with the crowd. They've stocked up on those warmer rugby tops to sell!

ABC TV wins five Logies

ABC TV won five Logie Awards at this year's presentation, all in the peer-voted categories.

Most Outstanding News Coverage was won by Tim Palmer's tsunami report from Aceh, *Last Man Standing*.

Most Outstanding Public Affairs Report was won by *Australian Story* for the two-parter *The Gathering Storm*, the story of Beth Heinrich and her involvement with a married priest - a case central to the controversy that led to the resignation of Governor-General Peter Hollingworth.

Chris Lilley's *We Can Be Heroes* won Most Outstanding Comedy.

The teen drama *Blue Water High* won Most Outstanding Children's Program.

Chris Lilley won the Graham Kennedy Award for Outstanding New Talent. *Play School* was inducted into the TV Week Hall of Fame.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



When Friends of the ABC is mentioned in some circles, the response is often: who are you, and what do you do? In the past month, issue after issue relating to the ABC has occupied us fully. All of those issues are comprehensively addressed in this issue.

The long-awaited decision on the replacement for departed Managing Director, Russell Balding, came last month with the appointment of Mark Scott. Much has been written about Scott, hitherto little known to most people. We are encouraged that he has a journalistic background while noting that he has much to learn about public broadcasting.

The fact that Scott was a press secretary and political adviser to ministers in the Greiner State Government some fifteen years ago should be of little consequence. We are of the view that he should be congratulated on his appointment and given every opportunity to get on with the job. Naturally, we will scrutinise his performance.

Challenges for Mark Scott

Mark Scott has a number of challenges before him. Foremost amongst those challenges is the proposal (not denied) that ABC online content be sold to a third party commercial web site. In return, the ABC would receive income based on the advertising revenue generated by that site. While the ABC Act prohibits advertising on radio and television, there is no such prohibition on on-line content.

Senator Coonan, the Minister for Communications, recently "floated" the idea that the ABC Board could give consideration to introducing advertising on the

ABC. The Prime Minister quickly poured cold water on the proposal but, once having aired it in public, it would not be a surprise to see it re-emerge in the next year or two.

Advertising not a Board matter

Of course, the Minister would be well aware that the issue of advertising is not a matter for the Board, but one which would require a change to the ABC Act. Another reason for the public to be sceptical and vigilant! Go no further than the Prime Minister's comment in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 26 May, when referring to the public float of the Snowy Hydro Scheme, "We believe the private sector is best at running businesses." Now, of course, due to public pressure, the Federal, NSW and Victorian governments have backed down.

The SBS announced on 1 June that it would permit commercials to be spread throughout its programs instead of the current practice of showing them in between programs. This news makes the opinion piece of Peter Luck in *The Sydney Morning Herald* earlier in the same week even more absurd. Luck, who should know better, given his many years of experience on the ABC and other media outlets, provided a view riddled with inaccuracies. His claim that 85 per cent of taxpayers don't patronise the ABC is so far off the mark – in fact, 75 per cent of Australians use ABC broadcast services every week. As for his opinion that "Australians like commercials", I am still waiting to meet someone who matches Luck's description. His view that often the ads are better than the programs is probably accurate if describing commercial television or radio. The early reaction from SBS viewers indicates

that its market share will suffer, not improve, as Luck asserts.

The ABC Board will be the poorer for not having the depth of knowledge and experience of Quentin Dempster, deprived of his rightful seat by Government legislation after having been democratically elected as the Staff Elected Director. Along with FABCs in all states and the ACT, we made a submission to the Senate Inquiry opposing the legislation (see p. 13 for more detail on this story).

Regional Conference 19-20 August

The third NSW FABC Regional Conference will be held over the weekend of 19 and 20 August at the Rooty Hill RSL Conference Centre and will be hosted by our Parramatta Branch. This conference is held every two years and is invaluable in reviewing and renewing policy, both internal and external to the Friends in NSW. It is also the only opportunity for delegates to meet personally and to exchange views and form friendships.

In this edition, we welcome our new *Update* editor, Helen de Silva Joyce, while at the same time, farewelling the retiring editor, Brian Davies. Brian has been editor of *Update* for over four years and his journalistic experience has been instrumental in developing *Update* to its current high standard. We wish Brian well for the future.

The May Committee Meeting saw us welcome a new Secretary, Avril Ingram, and two new Committee members, Christina Harlamb and Alan Dawson. We look forward to working closely with Avril, Christina and Alan.

Gary Cook
President, FABC

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KPMG Review Unavailable

But what of the KPMG Review? It has been reported that, unless the ABC receive an increase of \$125 million over three years in its operational funding above inflation, current ABC services will have to be cut.

The Minister has refused to release the Review, claiming it is “budget-in-confidence”. Why is the Minister withholding the Review? After all, it cost taxpayers \$417 000.

The additional funding, while welcomed by Friends of the ABC, has to be properly put in perspective. That view was provided by *Crikey* Media Commentator Margaret Simons on 10 May.

“How good is last night’s budget result for the ABC? It’s a bit like watching a dog that’s been beaten given a reprieve. Sure, the dog is better off but it remains cowed, and perhaps unduly grateful.”

Ms Simons added, “ABC Chairman Donald McDonald and former Managing Director Russell Balding’s method of behind the scenes lobbying and not embarrassing the government in public has been partly vindicated. Senator Helen Coonan has also obviously had some wins against the Costello forces hostile to the ABC”.

“Crucially, the ABC Board’s risky strategy of requesting an independent review of ABC funding and efficiency – a move many saw as putting the corporation’s head on the chopping block – has resulted in more funding, though not more independence. All the substantial new funding is tied to particular purposes. The devil will be in the detail of this, and today nobody at the ABC seems to know that detail.”

“Quentin Dempster, recently elected to a position on the board which he will never take up, says funding that is tied will mean the ABC ‘will have more strings attached than a dangling puppet. It appears the government doesn’t trust its own government-appointed Board to spend the appropriation where it said it wanted to in its triennial funding submission.”

According to Ms Simons, “Costello has said he thought the ABC needed more money for drama. He is therefore not averse to micro management of the national broadcaster. We are not holding our breath for the day when he thinks it needs more money for, say, another Middle East correspondent.”

She concluded, “s McDonald has said, the budget outcome – maintenance of core funding in real terms, plus \$88.2 million

over three years in new funding – is the best in 20 years, but that isn’t saying very much. The last 20 years have been particularly grim.”

Friends campaigned for more money for the ABC

FABC organisations around Australia campaigned vigorously in the lead up to the Budget in support of a substantial boost to ABC funding.

Here, in NSW, we worked closely with *GetUp*, an on-line political lobby group, to produce an unprecedented response of more than 78 000 people around Australia signing the petition.

The ACT Branch established its own “NO ABC – NO WAY” website allied with a special letter writing workshop. In Victoria, the Friends held a vigil at the ABC Southbank headquarters. Other states were similarly active.

In addition, there was an enthusiastic response to our campaign for increased local drama production. Five thousand post-cards with a theme of “Seachange” were posted to the Treasurer.

Surely, we played our part in securing additional funds for the ABC.

Gary Cook
President, FABC

Making connections in the Hunter



Some members at the April get-together.

The Friends of the ABC, Hunter Region, are reaching out to some local groups to provide extra benefits to members. The Branch has approached several organisations to ask if they might extend special rates, services or discounts to

members and the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery has said that Hunter FABC members would be welcome at its behind-the-scenes talks.

Saturday coffee afternoons are continuing at Panthers Newcastle.

A new broom?



Much has been written over the past weeks about the new managing Director of the ABC and much will continue to be written. We have restricted comment to this edited article by Darce Cassidy prepared for Background Briefing.

Shortly after Jonathan Shier, with experience in sales and marketing, took up duty as the Managing Director of the ABC, a senior ABC executive said that he was not so much a new broom as a new vacuum cleaner. He turned the ABC upside down and inside out so quickly that in some parts of the organisation production almost came to a standstill.

Many new chief executives act like dogs, having an instinctive need to mark every post they pass. However Russell Balding sensibly avoided this practice. He made only minor changes to his management team and focused on stabilising the ABC. He was the only chief executive of the ABC, since Sir Talbot Duckmanton left in 1982, to leave in an entirely voluntary way.

Keith Jennings, who followed Duckmanton, lasted only months before he returned to the University of Sydney. Geoffrey Whitehead, his successor, left well before the end of his appointment and his successor, David Hill left early in his second term amid controversy. Hill's successor, Brian Johns, completed his five-year term and, it is reported, would have liked a second term but his past Labor connections did not sit well with the incoming Coalition Government. Jonathan Shier's ABC career was short and not sweet.

How will Mark Scott proceed?

Like Jonathan Shier he was once a Liberal Party staffer, but unlike Shier, he has a background in journalism. In a December 2004 speech to the Sydney Institute Mark Scott said of his role with *The Sydney Morning Herald*:

Most Most people would think of us as a great public institution - a public good - making our democracy safer and our lives richer. And they are right. This is the pivotal role we play as a leading newspaper publisher and media company in our democracy. And whilst at some times it may annoy or disappoint some readers - Sydney and Australia are better places because The Sydney Morning Herald is there covering our city, our nation, and the world - and chronicling our life, our times, our challenges and our aspirations ... When I think of our journalists, it is certainly this role that attracted them to the paper and keeps them at the paper ... Our journalism does not pander to certain corporate interests. Our reporters do not receive any riding instructions on what their reporting must find. Our editors are not told what views are right and what views are wrong, who should be given a hard time and who should be ignored. There is no expectation that the Herald's news columns will be used to further specific business interests.

Change a few words and he could have been speaking about the role of the ABC. We can expect him to stick to these principles in his new workplace, can't we?

Scott's time at the Herald has not been without controversy. According to *Crikey.com*, there are two versions of why *The Age* supported the Liberals during the last election campaign.

Crikey wrote, in October 2004, that the acting editor, Simon Mann, insisted that the decision to back the the Liberals had been taken by the departing editor-in-chief, Michael Gawenda.

However, according to *Crikey*, Mann's version was disputed by a number of *Age* insiders, who claimed *The Age* had decided to call for a change of government, only to be overruled by Fairfax management in Sydney.

We must give Mark Scott the benefit of the doubt here. To his credit he defended cartoonist Michael Leunig when he was under attack. However, like previous ABC chief executives, he will be under pressure when he occupies the hot seat at the ABC. If there is an attack on ABC culture, what could the signs be?



New appointments to the ABC Board

Chairman Donald McDonald is reported to be unpopular with elements of the Liberal Party, although he is said to be close to the Prime Minister. His critics say he has 'gone native', and failure to extend his term to allow overlap with the arrival of the managing director, could be a negative sign. There are also two vacancies on the Board. The timing of appointments and the connections of the appointees, will be worth watching.

Cash for content.

Under Brian Johns, the ABC Board was looking to sell ABC content to a Telstra website. *Friends of the ABC* campaigned against this and it was eventually dropped. Now a similar proposal, to sell ABC content to a commercial website for a cut of the advertising, has been under discussion. While the ABC Act forbids the ABC to advertise on radio or television, it is silent about the Internet. Our concern is that such a move could result in ABC program content decisions being influenced by advertising revenue.

Another move could be a request from the Board to abolish the current restrictions on advertisements on ABC radio or television.

This could be justified on the basis that advertising has not harmed SBS. However, advertising on SBS TV has grown and become more strident, while SBS programs

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A new broom?

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have begun to desert their target audience for a larger mainstream audience, higher ratings and more advertising dollars. SBS staff have expressed alarm, only to be told, in an insulting and condescending remark from an SBS executive, "We're not going to cover the clog dancing from the Brisbane Town Hall."

A purge of senior ABC management

Readers will remember that off with their heads was one of the key strategies of the Shier regime. Similar strategies could be employed such as the dismissal, or sidelining, of senior executives associated with the Balding/McDonald era.

A purge of key on-air figures could be on the cards.

In the Shier era there were reports that Kerry O'Brien and Phillip Adams were vulnerable. *Media Watch* and *Four Corners* might be at risk, although *Four Corners* is such an institution that it is unlikely to be taken off air hastily.

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What has the Government got to hide?

Taxpayers have paid \$417 000 for a KPMG report, which the Minister claims is a confidential budget document. What is the Minister up to?

Matt Price on 30 March 2006 reported on extracts of the draft executive summary, which were obtained by The Australian.

Communications Minister Helen Coonan commissioned KPMG to conduct a funding adequacy and efficiency review of the ABC. The report warns that services would be cut if the ABC did not receive an extra \$125 million over the next three years above inflation. The summary states: ***Even with indexation we do not believe the ABC could sustain its present range, quality and mix of outputs at its present level of funding.***

KPMG found that:

- ◆ the national broadcaster delivers good value for money but needs a significant increase in funding to maintain services
- ◆ ABC staff costs have risen faster than ABC funding levels
- ◆ the ABC has performed as well as, if not better than industry competitors in managing labour costs
- ◆ ABC management had cracked down hard on expenses

◆ the range and scale of the ABC's output is unmatched by any other Australian media organization

◆ television is especially under duress to maintain its quality and output while coping with rising costs

◆ there were costs unique to the ABC such as dealing with audience complaints and servicing remote areas

The report recommends:

- a 7% increase in total funding
- efficiency measures which include increased outsourcing and leasing, specific revenue targets for managers and a 5% reduction in staffing in the legal, archiving, library and HR departments

A government source confirmed these recommendations had been made and Labor communications spokesman Stephen Conroy has demanded the report be released.

"The fact that the outcome of the review does not vindicate the Government's prejudices is no excuse for not releasing the report." Senator Conroy said in the Senate on Tuesday. "Australians are entitled to ask what the Government has got to hide." Labor has lodged a Freedom of Information application to release the KPMG report.

The Age says it all

On March 26th, *The Age* neatly summed up the need for an independent national broadcaster:

"A big country such as Australia needs a strong, non-commercial broadcaster, if only to ensure an adequate commitment to properly serving the whole country. For the sake of an informed, cohesive democracy, all citizens should have access to such a service. Despite the ABC's occasional flaws and misjudgements (in common with most other media outlets), an independent national broadcaster is crucial for Australia's political health. It must be free to scrutinise critically government and civil society. It must be able to produce drama that expresses Australian life and should be able to cater

for a broader range of interests than is covered by commercial networks. It should be able to fulfil these expectations without being effectively nobbled by funding constraints. But if the ABC's funding crisis is not redressed, what does the future hold?

"Even as Australia heads under relaxed ownership laws towards a commercial media with perhaps only half as many major voices, the independent public alternative is at risk. Do Australians want a situation closer to that of the United States, where the Public Broadcasting Service is a relatively small niche organisation? We cannot see how that would improve the Australian media landscape or the health of Australian democracy."

Directors who pick boss call the tune

Placement of an outsider into the ABC's top job has sparked concerns of a witch-hunt for bias, writes Brad Norington in The Australian 27 May 2006.

IN six weeks Mark Scott will take up his new job as ABC Managing Director. He is an outsider. It's not a bad thing, say some who have chosen to overlook his lack of experience in broadcasting and criticism of his record as a Fairfax newspaper executive.

But the big question is not whether Scott can handle the job (he probably can). Rather, it is the likely interplay between Scott and the ABC's Board of Directors.

As one ABC veteran puts it: "Anytime you go outside seeking a clean pair of hands and then select someone without direct experience in the organisation or the medium, that person is more likely to do the bidding of the board."

Commentary this week has portrayed Scott as affable in chitchat, diplomatic in style and possibly a good fit at the ABC because he can "talk the trendy media talk". It is another side to the man, however, that has caught the eye of many observers. Scott also has been noted as following his master's orders to the letter, no matter how brutal.

The ABC Board is in a state of flux. By the time Scott starts, a new chairman to replace Donald McDonald should be known and up to three other vacant board positions could be announced.

Cabinet chooses the board

ABC observers stress that while the managing director is the board's appointee, John Howard's cabinet chooses the board. With the Government having abolished the quaint position of staff-elected director (recent pick Quentin Dempster will be denied his spot) a board of government-only

appointees will preside at the nation's public broadcaster for the first time.

Already there are suggestions a replenished band of conservative but hawkish directors may want to be more aggressive on policy, launching a fresh assault on the ABC's perceived left-wing culture.

Present ABC Board

The present ABC board comprises Chairman McDonald, a long-time arts administrator and friend of the Prime Minister; Deputy Chairman John Gallagher, a barrister in commercial law; Ron Brunton, an anthropologist and former fellow of the Institute of Public Affairs; Janet Albrechtsen, a lawyer and columnist with *The Australian*; and Steven Skala, Deputy Chairman of Deutsche Bank in Australia and formerly a senior partner with Melbourne legal firm Arnold Bloch Leibler.

All are conservatives

All are conservatives and most are antagonistic to the way the ABC is run lower down the chain. But under McDonald's benign influence, the general approach has been not to rock the boat. McDonald has been the only director to have a rapport with staff: he is regularly seen on the floor of the ABC's Ultimo headquarters in Sydney and converses with those in charge.

Federal Communications Minister Helen Coonan has indicated that she favours extending McDonald's term from June 30 until the end of the year to avoid the disruption at the top of changing the chairman and managing director at the same time.



A chairman with a different take on the ABC may already be waiting in the wings, though: Skala, despite joining the board

only last October, is the hot favourite to succeed McDonald. As chairman of Film Australia and a former Ten network director, Skala has undoubted media experience. But he also could bring a more commercial mind-set to the ABC compared with the arts-oriented McDonald.

What is certain is that if Skala ends up in the chair, the Victorian Liberal establishment aligned with party powerbroker Michael Kroger will try to exert influence in routing the so-called left-wing bias. Kroger quit the ABC board in 2003 after one term and is said to have smouldered ever since in frustration at his inability to change the culture.

ABC insiders make the point that the board cannot affect the broadcaster's programs directly. It sets the editorial policy for programs and overall standards. They also say that - confronted with regular claims of bias from parties and interest groups - the ABC's media coverage has probably never experienced so much scrutiny. Nonetheless, a board intent on flexing its muscle in editorial decisions would have several avenues for action through a compliant managing director.

One way would be to have Scott pressure program-makers and news directors about selection of stories, however subtly. Another would be to call on his experience in wielding the axe to force redundancies among senior journalists considered past their use-by dates or straying too far.

Funding remains the ABC's bugbear, despite a three-year, \$88.2 million budget injection that McDonald rates the best in 20 years.

Critics point out that all the additional money is tied to drama, documentaries, regional services and overhauling digital technology.

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Mid North Coast Branch

Patience rewarded



After more than a year, the Mid North Coast Branch had a meeting with local MP and Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile. The meeting went well and Mr Vaile said his staff would prepare a submission to the Minister. He agreed ABC Regional Radio was vital to the bush and that transmission coverage problems should be sorted out. We raised the issue of advertising and explained that while TV and radio were protected in the Charter, other ABC media were not, but should be.

We put FABC policy on appointments to the Board, which Mr Vaile listened to, but he disagreed with us about the staff-elected position, saying the legislation is already listed for Parliament. We discussed digital TV and he was interested to hear about ABC 2, the programs/repeats and how to receive it. We asked the government to lift the genre restrictions on ABC 2. We also pointed out that ABC 2 runs on a budget of just \$2 million per year (less than the amount paid by Channel Nine for the Beaconsfield miners story!).

Mr Vaile said that Chairman Donald McDonald has the support of the government. He was interested to hear about the KPMG report and said he pass on to the Minister our request that it be made public. He is also getting the full budget picture clarified for us.

Apart from this meeting, the Branch is planning activities to raise awareness of the ABC – a street stall in Port Macquarie and an Activity Day involving the local University of the Third Age. Gary Cook will be one of the speakers and form letters will be available to maximise output to newspapers and politicians. The Branch is also looking for a suitable venue for an ABC Shop.

A recurring problem in this area is the ABC TV Mount Cairncross transmitter, which is now owned by Port Macquarie Hastings Council. It was out of service around Christmas, meaning two weeks without ABC news and programs! People affected must complain to Council to get some action – the rewards of Privatisation!

*Drusi Megget
President*

Illawarra Branch

Highlights From the Year

The seventh year for Friends of the ABC Illawarra has been an interesting one. The Branch focused on the lead-up to the May Federal Budget by conducting a mailout, which included a membership renewal form, where appropriate, and this resulted in a surge of renewals from people who had let their membership lapse.

The highlight social event of the year was the very successful Christmas afternoon, attended by 50 people, at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre with Blue the Shearer (aka Col Wilson). At a well-attended Coffee Morning at Thirroul the member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, spoke on the background to the current political climate in Canberra. On Thursday February 23 a group of sixteen Friends of FABC Illawarra went on a very informative and entertaining tour of the ABC studios at Ultimo.



Sharon Bird, MP

Recruitment through stalls has been good. In December, a record 13 volunteers staffed the stall at the Kiama Seaside Markets, with eight new members signing on. In January FABC Illawarra member Jane Taylor and her husband enrolled 10 new members at a very successful FABC stall in the Thirroul shopping centre.

During 2005/06 the Illawarra Committee has met eight times and financial membership of the Illawarra Branch has grown from 67 to 155, a growth of 131%. May Clarke, a member in her nineties, manages the posting of the Newsletter but the Branch has also begun to use email more effectively this year through the use of a software program designed for mass emails called WorldMerge. Sixty-four percent of members have opted to receive their newsletters by email, a saving of \$32 in postage for each newsletter mailed out.

In this time of Federal Government absolute control of both sides of Parliament, Chris Cartledge, Chairman of the Illawarra Branch warns us that as a political lobby group the Friends now need to behave like ants when their nest is stomped on. We need to get busy. We need to get busy enrolling support amongst the public, building up numbers that can't be ignored. The recruitment success of the Branch this year is certainly a good start.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

WE WELCOME contributions to Update.
If you have something to say about the ABC or
Friends of the ABC please email:
update@fabcnsw.org.au

Directors who pick boss call the tune

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That means funding for the rest of the cash-strapped ABC, with its huge radio and television networks and commitment to news and current affairs, will remain fixed, apart from indexation set slightly below inflation. No provision has been made for a delayed round of pay rises in which unions are pressing for more than the last deal of 10 per cent over three years. In this atmosphere, the hunger to make a buck out of ABC services will not go away. The ABC has a strong marketing arm and there is much talk about the potential to exploit podcasting by selling access to specialist programs at any time of the day.

When it comes to alternative revenue, though, it is advertising that remains the elephant sitting in the corner at every board meeting. Howard and Coonan have signalled to the board - for now - that advertising is off the agen-

da. Anyway, advertising for ABC radio and TV would require legislation to lift a ban.

But advertising for the ABC's online services is a different matter: it is not covered by the broadcaster's charter because the internet is a recent development. The revamped ABC board, possibly backed by Canberra, may conclude that ads online is sensible. If so, the door would be opened to commercials across the board. As one observer says: "It will be much harder to resist the argument not to have it on other free-to-air media, namely radio and television, as well."

Scott says online ads will be a matter for board policy. And the government rebuff for ads on TV and radio? "I suspect the public is very happy with that decision," he says.

Awards keep flowing to the national broadcaster

AIMIA Awards

ABC New Media and Digital Services, together with various coproduction partners, won six prestigious Australian Interactive Multimedia Industry Association (AIMIA) Awards at a ceremony held in Adelaide on 3rd March 2006. The AIMIA Awards are the peak Australian multimedia industry awards, acknowledging excellence in new-media content production. Ten ABC New Media & Digital Services projects were finalists this year and took out six of the nineteen awards.

Dog and Cat News won the Best of the Best and Best Children's Awards,

Us Mob took out the Best Learning Award, *Dots and Diamond* collected Best Game for and *Four Corners* won two awards for Best Cross-Platform Content/Content Integration and Best News/ Reference. Other ABC finalists were: Best Cultural, Lifestyle or Arts: *Dust on my Shoes*, *Pacific Stories*, Best Entertainment: *Dog and Cat News*, Best Game: *Athenian Graffiti* and Best Learning: *Behind The News*.

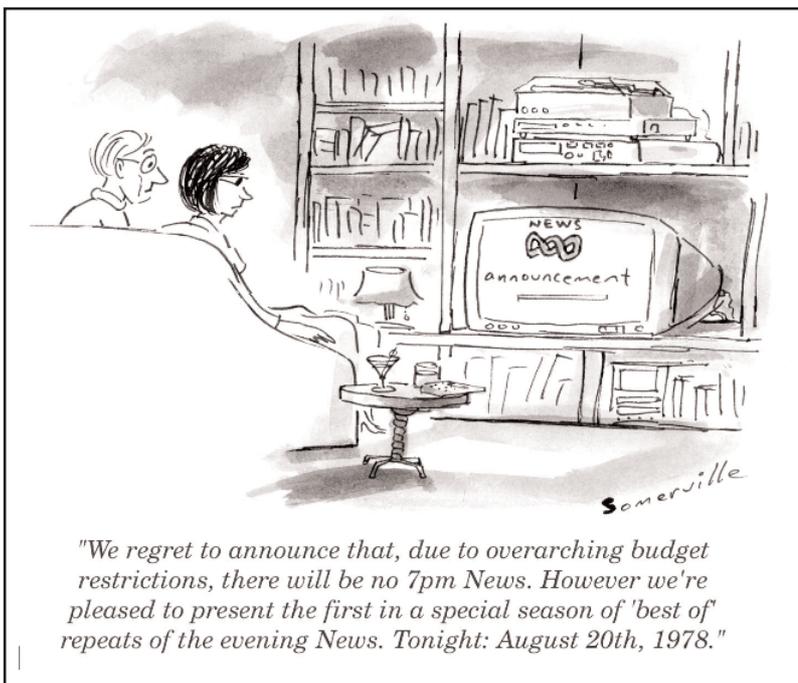
Lynley Marshall, Director of ABC New Media and Digital Services said, "The success of so many of our sites is recognition of the innovation, talent and hard work of everyone involved in bringing the content from development to download."



(Information from ABC Media Release 6.3.06)

PASS ME ON

When you have finished with this *UPDATE* Newsletter please pass it on to another family member, friend, neighbour etc. The ABC needs all the Friends it can muster!



"We regret to announce that, due to overarching budget restrictions, there will be no 7pm News. However we're pleased to present the first in a special season of 'best of' repeats of the evening News. Tonight: August 20th, 1978."

Courtesy Phil Sommerville

FABC AND GetUp CAMPAIGN REAPS REWARDS FOR ABC



Our joint campaign with the on-line political lobby group *GetUp* surely made an impact with the Government and assisted in additional funding for the ABC announced in the Budget.

We approached *GetUp* in December, 2005 with a suggested campaign for improved funding for the ABC. The "Fund our ABC" campaign was launched to give maximum impact shortly before Cabinet considered the ABC's Triennial Funding. The original target of 10 000 signatures was passed in one day and ultimately over 78 600 signed – a staggering response given that the campaign wasn't widely publicised. The response from concerned ABC supporters well and truly surpassed any previous *GetUp* campaign. A big thank you to all our members and supporters who participated and our gratitude to our good friends at *GetUp*.

The following message was sent by *GetUp* on 10 May.

Real people acting together to hold politicians to account: this is what *GetUp* is all about, and our record-breaking Fund Our ABC campaign broke all records with more than 78 600 signing the petition.

The ABC will now get an extra \$88.2 million over the next three years. That's an extra \$30 million to produce Australian content, an extra \$13.2 million to enhance regional and local programming and an extra \$45 million to upgrade equipment and infrastructure.

These additional funds fall short of the recommendations from the independent consultant KPMG, but they far surpass anything experts were predicting seven weeks ago when we launched our campaign.

ABC Chairman Donald McDonald calls this the best budget outcome for the ABC in more than 20 years - reminding us, and our politicians, of what Australians can accomplish when we work together. With that in mind, special thanks to the *Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance* and *Friends of the ABC* for their exceptional efforts.

ABC2 One Year On



Since its launch in March 2005, ABC2, the ABC's digital only, free-to-air TV channel has introduced an increasing number of exclusive first run programs into the screening schedule while still providing Australian audiences with the convenience of time-shifted programming from the main channel.

- Bequest Received - \$5000

Estate of the late Betty Brumfield

We report with pleasure and gratitude that the late Ms Betty Margaret Brumfield, formerly of 6 Brussels St. North Strathfield, recently left in her will \$5 000 to the Friends of the ABC. This was a generous and welcome gesture, and the funds will be directed towards our efforts in lobbying for a strong and independent ABC.

Jemima - Queen of the Desert

On 18th July 2006, *Play School* will be 40. This birthday is being celebrated by a unique gift to children living in remote Australia. Big Ted, Little Ted, Humpty and Jemima took to the road with the *Play School Birthday Live Show* on Sunday 30th April and will travel to 17 locations around the country, giving over 40 free concerts.

Destinations as diverse as Weipa in Cape York, the Mutitjulu Community at the foot of Uluru, Derby in Western Australia and Coober Pedy in South Australia will have the chance to celebrate, with the actual birthday performance, on July 18, occurring on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. *Play School* presenters Justine Clarke, Jay Laga'aia, Andrew McFarlane and Karen Pang will share the tours and are delighted for the chance to meet their audiences in remote Australia.

For further information contact Sarah Osmotherly ABC TV Publicity on (02) 8333 3847 or osmotherly.sarah@abc.net.au

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Stacking the Board



The Coalition Government is using its control of Parliament to gain control of the ABC Board. The following article summaries look at the different manoeuvres by the Howard Government over the past few months.

David Salter in The Australian, on 9 March 2006, in his article 'Branch Stacking at the ABC', reflected on the 10-year anniversary, in July, of Donald McDonald's appointment as the ABC Chairman by his good friend John Howard. Salter sees this as neatly echoing the Prime Minister's decade of picket-fence conservatism.

It has taken ten years for the Federal Government to achieve complete control over the seven directorships and Salter reflects on these McDonald years. In 1998, McDonald unctuously confirmed his public support for the PM during the 1998 election campaign. *The McDonald Must Go!* rally by ABC staff outside the corporation's Sydney headquarters was an honour bestowed on few chairmen.

The ABC Board will have four new members this year, a turnover of more than 50 per cent, a higher boardroom churn rate than even the more volatile listed companies. Two seats have been vacant for a year, which may be a cunning Coalition ploy to reduce the numbers in a way that strengthens the proportion of directors whose position on most issues could reasonably be expected to be a fair distance to the right of the soup spoon, most notably Janet Albrechtsen and Ron Brunton.

In October 2004, the Board adopted a 23-point protocol, subtitled *Recognition of Responsibility and Common Purpose*, which is neither a requirement of the act nor part of it but is prefaced by a bald statement that members of the ABC Board 'agree to adopt and be bound' by its content. The third point states that 'No duty is owed by any director to any individual or group or organisation who may have nominated them.' Another clause binds directors to agree that outside the boardroom they will

support the letter and spirit of board decisions and the Board is given the right to pursue any miscreant director through the courts for 'injunctive relief'. That's a rather big stick. As Salter states, invoking their preposterous protocol, McDonald and his successors can reduce ABC policy-making to even more of a cipher than it was before. Only after a decade of Howard could this blatant gelding of Australia's purportedly independent national public broadcaster pass without debate.

This stacking of the ABC Board will continue under a Government with no brakes. We can only hope that the small consolation offered by Salter is true - by the time any government of the day finally gets all its ABC ducks in a row, the voters have usually unseated it.

Mark Day in The Australian on 16 March 2006 reported that the Howard Government is expected to name Melbourne merchant banker Steven Skala as the new chairman of the ABC to replace Donald McDonald. Mr Skala, a graduate of the University of Queensland, is already on the ABC Board, having been appointed to a five-year term last October when he retired as a senior partner and head of corporate and commercial practice at the Melbourne legal firm of Arnold Bloch Leibler. According to Day he has impeccable credentials for the top job, with extensive media and cultural connections outside his main role as vice-chairman of the Deutsche Bank for Australia and New Zealand. Mr Skala occupies a number of other high profile positions as chairman of Film Australia, the new media content company Live Events Wireless Pty Ltd and agritech gene specialist Hexima Ltd, a director of Max Re Capital Ltd, Wilson HTM Investment Group Limited, the Australian Ballet and the Centre for Independent Studies, vice-president of the Walter & Eliza Hall



Steven Skala

Institute of Medical Research, a trustee of the Sir Zelman Cowen Cancer Foundation, an associate governor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a member of the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He is also a member of the grievance tribunal of Cricket Australia.

But is he an independent thinker?

Errol Simper in The Australian 11 May 2006 reported in his article 'Coonan Denies Vetoing ABC Boss Choice,' that



The Communications Minister Helen Coonan totally rejected suggestions the Federal Government vetoed the ABC Board's preferred candidate as its new managing director.

According to Canberra the ABC Board has the sole responsibility for selecting and appointing a managing director, at \$430 000 per year, and the Government has no legislative power to reject or veto the decision.

The current Chairman, Donald McDonald, also launched into the debate on Radio National's PM Program stating 'That's utterly false. It's a complete fabrication. It's not the process in any case. No such event has taken place. Whoever gave that to the journalist in question was making it up. And the journalist should have checked it with me.' The journalist in question was from Fairfax and Simper reports that *Mr McDonald wrote to Fairfax on Tuesday, insisting: 'This important appointment will quite properly be made by the board, not the Government.'*

Simper goes on to report sources that insisted ... *at least two possible candidates had been mentioned to Coonan advisers and it's known that a representative of the recruitment agency, Egon Zehnder, attended the corporation's last Board meeting. Some observers have speculated EZ may have been asked to compile a fresh short list.*

Our Parliamentarians Hard At Work

(Continued from Page 1)

and Development about ABC presenters' descriptions of groups or organizations as *terrorist*.



Senator Michael Ronaldson

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells (Liberal, NSW)

has stepped forward to take over the baton of chief ABC protagonist from former Senator Alston and Senator Santoro. She apparently wears the mantle as a badge of honour.



Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Addressing John Cameron, she said, *Thank you, Mr Cameron. Your reporter, Toni Hassan made a statement recently during the coverage of the arrival of the body of Private Jake Kovco and can I quote, "A short time ago we heard a lone bagpiper playing the classic Christian hymn, Amazing Grace with the unmistakable words – I once was lost, but now I'm found".*

Now, I formally complained to you about this, and I note your answer in your recent correspondence. Your reply doesn't explain why unmistakable words would be heard when the lone piper was playing ... To my ear, and to the other people who may have heard this item, I think it was a case of your reporter treating the thing as a joke ... We'll be referring this matter further.

Remember, we the taxpayers are paying for this abuse of power by our elected representatives. No matter how many answers the ABC provides, they are never acceptable to these senators, and, inevitably, when the next hearings commence, the same issues are resurrected.

The standards demanded of the ABC and its staff is not matched by our parliamentarians. Witness the

appalling behaviour in Parliament, recall the lies and duplicity we are expected to believe and observe the total lack of accountability when there is obvious dereliction of duty.

The public perception, reputation and support of the ABC in the eyes of the public is light years ahead of that of parliamentarians.

Yet, they cajole, bully and intimidate the ABC because they know they hold the purse strings.

Perhaps we should pose a few questions of our own:

How many people do Senators Ronaldson and Fierravanti-Wells have on their staff or in their party spending countless hours digging up dirt on the ABC?

How much does it cost for these people and what is it costing the taxpayer?

How much does it cost the ABC to answer the multitude of questions needlessly posed?

Gary Cook
President, FABC

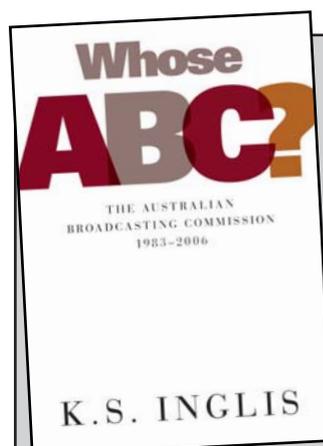
Hot off the press

John Lehmann on 6 June 2006 in *The Australian* reported that ABC Chairman Donald McDonald will continue in the job until the end of the year to help ease new Managing Director Mark Scott into his duties at the national broadcaster.

Communications Minister Helen Coonan said she wanted Mr McDonald to be granted a six-month extension to his second five-year term, which was due to expire in July. Senator Coonan said she would recommend the extension to Federal Cabinet.

"Update" includes material from the South Australia 'Friends' publication "Background Briefing", compiled and edited by Joan Laing. In "Update", this material is credited as:

bb



Earmark Wednesday, 30th August

in your diaries for the much anticipated launch of Professor Ken Inglis' latest book, "Whose ABC?", the definitive history of the ABC since 1983.

On that evening at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, Professor Inglis will discuss the history of the ABC with Quentin Dempster.

Full details will be provided to members by e-mail closer to the event.

The vacant seat at the boardroom table



On 24 March, Senator Coonan, the Minister for Communications, announced that she intended to introduce legislation to abolish the position of Staff-Elected Director (SED) on the ABC Board. Four days later it was introduced - why the indecent haste? After all, in June 2005, when asked by Richard Aedy on *The Media Report* (Radio National), the Minister responded, "No, I'm not currently looking at that." The term of the current SED, Romana Koval, expires on 14 June and the Minister would have been aware that the process for electing a SED was under way. It is history now that Quentin Dempster was unanimously elected to the position - one that, regrettably, he will not take up, as the legislation has passed through the Senate and will have little opposition in the House.

The SED has been an invaluable member of the Board since it was reintroduced in 1983. It is well documented that past SEDs have spoken up to preserve the independence of the ABC from schemes or proposals introduced by other directors. The election of the SED is supervised by the Australian Electoral Commission. Contrast that process with political appointments to the Board made by governments from both sides of the political spectrum.

The Minister has alleged that a SED is expected to place the interests of staff ahead of the interests of the ABC as a whole, where they are in conflict. Where is the evidence for this claim? Past and current SEDs, appearing before the Senate Inquiry and detailed in their own submissions, were adamant that, without exception, they acted in good faith and in the interests of the ABC.

On 29 March the current SED, Romana Koval remarked, "At least one member brings expertise in journalism, broadcasting and a

working knowledge of the role and functions of the public broadcaster and its importance in the cultural life of the country."

Ross Fitzgerald in *The Australian* on 17 April, commented, "The ABC has become one of our most trusted institutions, through its charter obligations to educate, inform and entertain and to foster a sense of national identity. Yet, governments of all persuasions reward that status with public attacks and unsustainable levels of funding. With no SED, how can anyone be sure, on past record, that the now conservatively weighted ABC Board would resist the temptations of the commercial dollars on offer?"

Finally, David Salter, former executive producer of *Media Watch*, observed in *The Australian* on 6 April, 'Before Senator Coonan delivers the coup de grace, let's hope she enlightens the electorate as to what great harm has been done by the occupants of that position. What terrible acts of vandalism, betrayal or sabotage can she identify? How pointless and vindictive it would be to amputate a perfectly useful limb.'

The Senate Inquiry received 60 submissions. All but two were opposed to the legislation, one was in favour and one was neutral. Yet, the compelling arguments put forward and the impressive personal appearances before the Inquiry were ignored by government senators who were in the majority on the Committee. The old hackneyed expression 'don't set up an inquiry unless you know the result' rings true.

Gary Cook
President, FABC

Rose d'Or prizes

Two ABC TV programs have been recognised by the prestigious international Rose d'Or television awards in Lucerne, Switzerland. These awards were established in 1961 and this year over 330 programs from 32 countries worldwide entered the high profile competition. This marks the first time Australian television programs have won.

Kathy Drayton and Helen Bowden's acclaimed documentary about photographer Carol Jerrems, *Girl in a Mirror*, took out the coveted Arts and Specials Award. Chris Lilley, writer and performer of *We Can Be Heroes* was awarded the Rose d'Or for Best Male Comedy Performance. Last year the recipients were David Walliams and Matt Lucas of *Little Britain* fame.

Courtney Gibson, Head of ABC TV Arts and Entertainment, said, 'This recognition from their peers around the world is a wonderful affirmation of their outstanding skill and craft. We're so proud to have been able to support the development and production of these two extraordinary projects. The awards are usually dominated by British shows - call it revenge for the Ashes and the Rugby.'



For a full list of winners visit the official website
www.rosedor.com.

(ABC Media Release May 1st 2006)



Aden Ridgeway joins the ABC

An ABC Media release on 3rd May announced that the former Aboriginal Democrat Senator, Aden Ridgeway, would be the new host of *Message Stick*, presenting his first program on July 7th. Mr Ridgeway is originally from Gumbayngirr, Northern NSW and currently lives in Sydney.

Speaking about his new appointment he said, "I see this as an exciting opportunity and I'm pleased to become part of the ABC team. There are lots of good stories out there and I want to make sure I'm part of the process of getting Australians to learn about them. These are important stories about Indigenous identity and a way of life about the other Australia, which we should all share in and be proud of."

Message Stick airs on ABC TV 6 pm Fridays and is repeated at 1.30pm (EST) on Sundays.

What is the FABClisT?

The NSW Branch of the Friends has an e-mail list for use by members. FABClisT is like a community notice board. Anyone can pin-up a notice (e-mail) and everybody in the Friends community (e-mailers who subscribe) can read the notice (by e-mail).

This is a great forum for late breaking news, information, opinions and debate amongst like minds ie, lovers of the ABC.

If you want more detail go to www.fabcnsw.org.au and click on: **Mailing List**

Good news for ABC podcasting

The term podcast was declared the 2005 Word of the Year by the New Oxford American Dictionary. Podcast is defined as a digital recording of a radio broadcast or similar program, made available on the Internet for downloading to a personal audio player. The digital recordings can also be played on computers or mobile phones equipped with freely available software.

ABC Radio National's podcasting

service hit new heights with over 175 000 mp3s of ABC *Radio National* programs downloaded in the week ending 26th February, with downloads exceeding 350 000 for the first time. ABC Radio National continues to extend the number of programs available to download. Currently twenty-six different programs can be downloaded with a further twelve programs to be available this year.

(Information from ABC Media Release 6.3.06)

ABC scholarship winner bound for Oxford

An ABC Media Release on 22nd March announced that Karen Percy, a reporter and presenter for ABC Television and Radio for eleven years won the 2006 ABC Scholarship to the Reuter Foundation in Oxford. Karen started at the ABC as a cadet in 1987. She has reported for the *7 o'clock News*, *Lateline*, *The 7.30 Report* and for radio current affairs.

The Reuter Foundation was established in 1982 to promote the highest standards in international journalism. Each year the Foundation Director Paddy Coulter brings together approximately 25 established journalists from around the world to provide them with opportunities to further develop their skills.

As part of her Oxford studies, Karen will examine media observations of the Islamic faith, challenges faced by Islamic migrants within western cultures and how Islam is reported in the media.



Courtesy Alan Mackay, FABC Illawarra

Will John let his friend stay on as Chairman?

There has been a great deal of press coverage reviewing Donald McDonald's chairmanship of the ABC and whether he will stay or go. Darce Cassidy looks at McDonald's chairmanship.

Going Native?

Donald McDonald's term as Chairman of the ABC is due to expire in June. Many *Friends of the ABC* saw a bleak future when he was appointed and the ABC has had ten difficult years, but it has survived. Despite the ups and downs, it is still recognizably the ABC. Will the ABC be better off under a new Chairman, or has Donald McDonald been a defender of traditional ABC values?

In *The Age* recently Michelle Grattan wrote that McDonald is a personal friend of Howard's, and his wife and Janette Howard are very close. When he was appointed in 1996, he was regarded as the PM's enforcer who would do over the ABC. The story has turned out very differently. McDonald is a defender of traditional journalistic and ABC values.

There is some evidence to support Michelle Grattan's view. Shortly after his term on the ABC Board expired, John Bannon, the former Labor Premier of South Australia, told me that he thought that Donald McDonald was the best thing that the ABC had going for it. I found this surprising coming from a former Labor politician, not only because of McDonald's friendship with the Prime Minister, but also in view of his rather patrician manner. This had once led Phillip Adams to give McDonald the fictitious Argonaut name of Fastidious 29. Many of us felt that McDonald got off to a poor start with the appointment of Jonathan Shier as Managing Director.

If any one program represents ABC heartland, it is *Four Corners* and Bannon's view was reinforced

in August 2001 when I attended a function in ABC Studio 22 at Gore Hill, Sydney, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Four Corners*. Present were a hundred or so past and present *Four Corners* staff, plus Donald McDonald and Jonathan Shier. Neither McDonald nor Shier looked especially comfortable but when McDonald spoke, the usual smooth and urbane performance held the attention of the audience. The body language between the Chairman and the Managing Director that night indicated that they were not close. Shier stood in the corner for much of the time, looking more and more uncomfortable as the night wore on. Later in the night Shier lost his cool in a verbal attack on a *Four Corners* producer, who he was reported to have called *a stupid Pom*. While McDonald might be criticised for appointing Shier in the first place, his role in Shier's departure, a few months after the *Four Corners* function, did a lot to rescue his reputation.

Some see McDonald as having been sent in to do a hatchet job on the ABC, but becoming absorbed by the institutional culture and 'going native'. Others take the view that he was, from the start, a supporter of public service broadcasting.

Ken Inglis, the author of the official history of the ABC, said in a 2004 lecture that McDonald has acted, in his view, with as much concern for the integrity and welfare of the ABC as any of his predecessors over the years. His judgment was based on a detailed study of the ABC since 1983, including interviews with most of the key players. Professor Inglis may flesh out this comment in the second volume of his history of the ABC, to be published in August this year. It will be interesting to see if Mr McDonald's term is extended, and he is still Chairman next August.



Aims of The Friends

- ✓ Defend and promote the ABC in its vital role, as Australia's only independent national broadcaster.
- ✓ Oppose all efforts to censor the ABC or introduce advertising and corporate sponsorship into the ABC.
- ✓ Remind all political parties and the people of Australia of the need for adequate government funding for the ABC.

The night of a lifetime

Port Pirie South Australia, was rocked by a huge free concert, broadcast live on *Triple J* and featuring some of Australia's top bands. This is the third year of the *Triple J One Night Stand Competition* which gives all towns in regional Australia, with populations under 20 000, the opportunity to host a concert.

Read full stories on these items by going to:
<http://abc.net.au/corp/pubs/iabc/>

To support the ABC, Friends need more Friends.

Your support is needed to obtain more members. Talk to your friends and neighbours. Ask them to join Friends of the ABC. Use the form on the back of Update.

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Darce Cassidy
www.friendsoftheabc.org



Membership form

Please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to:

The Treasurer, Friends of the ABC (NSW) Inc.
PO Box 1391, North Sydney NSW 2059.

Use only if joining or if your membership has expired.

Name		Email:	
(Please Print)			
Address		Suburb	P/Code
Phone (Home)	(Work)	Mob	
Federal Electorate		My details will be passed on to my local FABC branch. (Strike out if you disagree)	
Age Group	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 or under <input type="checkbox"/> 31-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51+	Membership No. _____	
I would like to join <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to renew <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in helping <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to join the email network <input type="checkbox"/>		(and help pass on information to members)	
I/We apply for membership of FABC (NSW) Inc. and accept its objectives and rules. <i>Signature</i> _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (covers 3 members) <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a donation \$ _____	1 Yr. 3 Yrs. \$20 \$55 \$25 \$70 \$15 \$40 \$15 \$40 \$60 -	I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> cheque in favour of FABC (NSW) Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> money order <input type="checkbox"/> mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> visa Card number _____ Name on credit card _____ Expiry date _____	
Cardholders signature		Amount \$	