



# NEWS VIC

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*Beechworth Easter Festival*

It's Time ...

for answers from the ALP

With an election approaching, it is time for the ALP to give meaning to its expressions of support for the ABC by informing the public of its level of commitment.

**NOW** is the time to write to federal ALP politicians.

Let them know you are seeking their commitment to:

- restore ABC funding to at least its 1995/96 level in real terms and provide additional funds for the ABC to operate in the new digital media environment;
- prevent the commercialisation and privatisation of the ABC; and
- introduce a new system of appointments to the ABC Board which will ensure its members are appointed on the basis of merit and commitment to independent public broadcasting, rather than allegiance to the government of the day.

To assist you in lobbying your political representatives in the run-up to the election, a copy of the policy on the ABC which Friends of the ABC is seeking from political parties is located on the back of FABC's national newsletter.

***Write NOW to your ALP Member of Parliament or federal ALP candidate. Write or send a copy of your letter to the Hon Kim Beazley MP, Leader of the Opposition, Parliament House, Canberra 2600.***



***'An independent ABC unites Australia'***

was the message carried by FABC Vic President Lecki Ord and Friends outside the recent Centenary of Federation Commemoration sitting of the Federal Parliament in Melbourne.



*Friends of the ABC—Maroondah display at the Ringwood Library*

*Peg Marsh, Frankie McKeown (FABC Maroondah contact) & Jean Wedding*

## **Dealer's Choice**

**by Patrick Marber**

**Tuesday 11 September  
8.30pm**

The 1812 Theatre, 3 Rose Street,  
Upper Ferntree Gully  
*All proceeds to Friends of the ABC*

Tickets \$17

includes pre-show drinks and  
champagne supper after the show.

## **Castlemaine Book Competition**

**A chance to write how you feel  
about the ABC.**



Two categories:

- . an essay/article about the ABC which is suitable for publication in a national newspaper (1500 words maximum);
- . a short story with an open theme (3,000 words maximum)

Entrance fee \$4

\$300 prize for each category

Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> July 2001

To obtain an entry form: send a SSAE to R McKenry  
8 Campbell Street Castlemaine 3450  
or email [rmckenry@netcon.net.au](mailto:rmckenry@netcon.net.au)

**Essay judge:** Dr Ken Inglis, Emeritus Professor at Australian National University. Dr Inglis is one of Australia's most distinguished academics and the author of 'This is the ABC: The Australian Broadcasting Commission 1932- 1983'.

**Short story judge:** Well known writer and reviewer, Judith Rodriguez. Ms Rodriguez also teaches professional writing at Deakin University.

The 1812 Theatre Ltd offers you a night of laughter and dramatic tension. The fast and witty dialogue, the tension of the poker game and the colorful characters all combine to make this masterful comedy an absorbing and laughter filled night's entertainment. Dealer's Choice won the 1995 Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy , and the 1995 Writers' Guild Award for Best West End Play.

*Note: Play contains strong language.*

**Bookings with payment to:** Friends of the ABC, Phone 9682 0073.

For bookings include your name, postal address, day phone contact, number of tickets.

Tickets will be mailed out in early August.

*Ballarat Begonia Festival  
(March 2001)*

*Greta Christie, Janet Cook and  
other Ballarat Friends*

