



VICNEWS

**Issue 11
Autumn 2003**

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Be Better Informed About The ABC

FABC is conducting two workshops to help FABC members become better informed. The workshops will assist members to speak with other people about the ABC. Each is comprised of two two-hour sessions and will be held approximately one week apart:



Workshop 1: *The ABC & FABC: information you need* FABC Campaign Manager, Glenys Stradijot, will help participants to become better informed about the ABC and Friends of the ABC. Although the focus is to provide information which is useful for members wanting to address other organisations, participants not interested in public speaking will find the information helpful - for encouraging a friend or colleague to join FABC, chatting with the public on a FABC street stall, or meeting with your local Member of Parliament.

This workshop will be conducted at Friends of the ABC's office in South Melbourne, approximately one week before the second workshop. Depending on the needs of those interested to attend, it will be scheduled for the daytime or evening, on a week day or weekend.

Workshop 2: *Effective preparation and presentation techniques for public speaking* Ben Richards, Director of the communications consultancy Aticus Pty Ltd, will share his extensive knowledge on public speaking, including techniques to overcome nervousness.

This workshop will be conducted in the Melbourne central business district on Thursday 8th May, 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

Contact: Please phone Glenys Stradijot to discuss your interest and find out more.

Plan for the ABC's Survival Remember Friends of the ABC in your Will

A healthy independent and comprehensive national public broadcaster - which can report without fear or favour - is critical to Australian democracy and culture. As media diversity in Australia shrinks and the power of commercial media proprietors to influence governments increases, the community's need for the ABC grows.

The ABC will always be under threat from governments sensitive to scrutiny of their activities and pressure to raise funds from commercial sources. An independent and comprehensive national broadcaster will thrive only with the ongoing vigilance and support of the community through organizations such as Friends of the ABC.

FABC struggles to survive and to rent an office from which to conduct its campaign.

You may like to consider 'Friends of the ABC (Vic) Inc.' in your will. Tell your solicitor what you would like to do, or ask Friends of the ABC to send its information sheet to you.

with thanks, tandberg



Greetings from Monday morning office volunteers David Dosser and Christine Rosenkottler on the computers.



Stall holders - Davide Parkes (in clown costume) with Helen Campbell at local shopping centre. Helen made the costume.

Support FABC – 2003 Raffle

Wonderful prizes have been donated for FABC's 2003 raffle. Details and raffle tickets are enclosed with this edition of newsletter. Without fundraising, FABC would have insufficient funds to campaign. We depend on the support you, our members, so graciously give to these efforts.

Operation Cork

Help the environment Help FABC Vic



Did you know that of the possible 260 million corks available for recycling in Australia, that only about 10% are recycled? The rest go into landfill.

We are looking for interested Friends who would like to create an income stream for FABC Vic. The bigger Operation Cork becomes, the more income possible for FABC and the more people will be needed to keep it going.

FABC needs to:

- source corks in your area - from family, friends, local pubs, restaurants, other;
- collect corks from these sources;
- sort corks (separating cork from plastic and metal parts);
- store corks (spare garage space?);
- count or weigh corks; and
- deliver corks to storers in your area and to the recycler.

If you think you could be interested in helping with any of these tasks in your area, give Carolyn a call or email her at the FABC office.

Montsalvat



L-r: Sigmund Jorgenson, Barbara Kew, Terry Laidler, Maree Krohn.



FABC's celebration of the ABC's 70th birthday at Montsalvat Nov 02 organised by the Diamond Valley Local Group Left to right: Barbara Kew, Terry Laidler, Ramona Koval, Rod Qantock, Tim Lane.

Useful Contact Details

Politicians

- Ask FABC for your local MP
- The Hon J Howard, MP, Prime Minister Parliament House, Canberra 2600

The ABC - phone 9626 1600

GPO Box 9994, Melbourne 3001

- Mr Donald McDonald, Chairman, ABC Board GPO Box 9994, Sydney 2001
- Mr Russell Balding, Managing Director ABC, GPO Box 9994, Sydney 2001

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Radio Australia – progress or problems?

The ABC has established an International Broadcasting Division that will bring together under a single management structure Radio Australia and the ABC Asia Pacific television service, with both retaining separate identities and individual editorial obligations.

Terry Laidler, FABC Vic President, wrote to the ABC Board 4.3.03:

“FABC welcomes formal recognition by the ABC of the importance of its international broadcasting activities, and is pleased that Radio Australia will no longer be seen as a mere addendum to the domestic radio services of the ABC. We also recognize that there are likely to be advantages in a closer relationship an International Broadcasting Division could bring about between the ABC’s international television and radio services.

Nevertheless, FABC has two major concerns about the possible negative impact on Radio Australia of any structure that links it more closely to the ABC Asia Pacific television service.

Respected across the world for its independence, Radio Australia has a long and credible history. FABC is worried that RA’s editorial independence could be undermined through its closer connection in the new International Broadcasting Division structure to the Asia Pacific service, which relies on funds from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and from commercial sources.

It would be unrealistic to think that political and commercial sources with the capacity (through the provision of funds to the television arm) would not attempt to influence both the television and radio services of the ABC’s International Broadcasting Division. Even in the event that RA does not yield to such pressure, RA’s reputation may be tainted by a perception that the ABC’s It would be unrealistic to think that political and International Broadcasting Division is linked to commercial and political forces.

FABC is also anxious to see that RA’s new relationship to the Asia Pacific television service does not weaken Radio Australia’s role and resources. We are concerned to ensure that, as often occurs, radio is not treated as the poor cousin of television. This factor is pertinent in the provision of services to the Asia Pacific region. People with a capacity to influence Australian policy (including senior overseas DFAT staff) will have access and are therefore likely to have a stronger interest in promoting television, despite radio having the potential to reach a far greater number of people in our region, and at a significantly lower cost.

The spirit and intention of the ABC Act is that ABC services be independent - free from commercial and political influence. FABC urges the Board to seek a level of triennial funding and access to transmission which will enable the ABC to provide independent, quality international broadcasting services. In the meantime, we would appreciate being informed specifically how RA’s editorial independence will be protected, and its role and resources enhanced, and not diminished, under the new structure.”