

# Friends of the ABC

Blue Mountains Region July 2007

## From the President

What's the news? Winter Magic at Katoomba a resounding success and our July 28 Forum at the Carrington heading in the same direction. Short days and cold nights obviously get FABC members going. As you will see as you read on we have a superb panel for the Forum so spread the word through your email networks and the like.

Magic winter weather helped filled Katoomba Street on June 23 and our stall opposite ABC Radio 702 helped us in turn to engage 100's of passersby in building support for a courageous ABC. Bev Plaizier and Warren Nicholls added to our impact by carrying the FABC banner in the Parade. If the sight of a group of teenagers marching with them came as a surprise you underestimate Bev's powers of persuasion.

That 370 people paid for a stamp and sent a letter to Helen Coonan voicing their opposition to advertising on

the ABC will be welcome news to our stall volunteers – David and Gabrielle Archer, Otto and Mariella Ebert, John and Alison Ormella, Bev Plaizier, Julia McGill, Warren Nicholls, Colin Bull, Carole Goodwin, Ron Herbert, Sue Blair, Annette Anderson, Jan Ardill, Muriel Tonkin, Robyn and John Stafford, Joan and Bob Macadam, Pam Fitzpatrick and Yianna Kinsman. Only mishaps en route stopped Margaret Foy and Kerry Goodwin doing their bit.

Winter Magic over attention has turned to the July 28 Forum and FABC members who attended the Refugee Support Group's 'Hypothetical' the next day were among the 300 or so who were handed a Forum flyer.

The Forum is shaping as the centre-piece of our 2007 program.

**Next Meeting:**  
**Where: Grand View Hotel**  
**When: Saturday 21 July**  
**Time: 10.00am Start**

What a panel - Peter Andren, Richard Bawden, Peter Manning and John Highfield, with Neil Inall the moderator. Gender balance was a panel criterion but women proved elusive, despite our best efforts. The 'Democracy and media and the role of the ABC' provides plenty of scope for interaction among the panel and between it and the audience.

**Peter Andren's** outspoken advocacy of democratic processes in his role as an Independent MP has made him a household name and with his background in television production his will be an 'at the coalface' commentary.

**Richard Bawden,** Distinguished Visiting Professor at Michigan State University since 1999 and an Emeritus Professor at UWS has worked with the ABC as a TV presenter and

as a member of the ABC Advisory Committee in NSW. A recent book of his has 'engagement for deliberative democracy' as its theme. The Forum marks Richard's Australian homecoming.

**Peter Manning** has a wealth of experience to call on – he was for example Head of ABC News and Current Affairs and producer of the ABC's Four Corners and Channel 7's Witness, and an Adjunct Professor of Media Studies at UTS. A recent opus is his 2006 book *Us and Them* - a journalist's investigation of media, muslims, and the middle east.

**John Highfield** is a distinguished foreign correspondent whose resume includes Chief of the ABC's European Bureau, its International Editor for radio news and current affairs, and presenter of AM, PM and the World Today.

**Neil Inall** is one of Australia's best known rural broadcasters. His was a familiar voice on ABC radio in country homes before he added ABC-TV programs such as Big Country, Cross Country and Landline to his resume. He went on to present Cross Country, which screened in 32 countries, for the Prime network. His zest as a moderator will bring out the best from panel and audience.



# Advertising

**Below is a copy of the letter 600 Mountains' residents have signed and mailed to Senator Coonan. Members who have not sent a letter may like to take a copy. Better still; members may like to compose their own letter using the themes mentioned. Remember, we don't want the ABC to end up like SBS!**

Senator the Hon Helen Coonan  
Minister for Communications, Information Technology & the Arts  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

I am very concerned about the introduction of advertisements on the ABC's 'Countdown' website. I fear this arrangement is the beginning of an attempt to steadily commercialise the ABC and deny Australians universal access to their national broadcaster.

The SBS experience demonstrates the inevitable pressure to extend advertising once it is introduced. Advertising also provides an excuse for the government to withdraw further from its responsibility to fully fund public broadcasting.

The national public broadcaster is not meant to be a business. It was conceived as a service to the public – an independent educational and cultural institution which enriches the country and the lives of its citizens. I call on you to support our treasured national institution, and request your written assurance that commercial advertising will not be introduced to any ABC service.

Yours sincerely

Signature:

Name:

Address:

Date:

## FABC Committee

President – Bob Macadam 47541620  
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Secretary – Carole Goodwin 47512680

Treasurer – Julia McGill

Membership Secretary—Janelle Clark

Publicity Officers – Bev. Plazier and Dave Davidson.

Merchandise Officer –  
Joan Macadam.

Web Officer & Newsletter –  
Publisher— Bob Foster.

Vice President / Newsletter Editor – Colin Bull.

## Receive your 'Update' magazine electronically

As a member of the Friends of the ABC (NSW) Inc you currently receive our quarterly magazine 'Update' by post. You can save the planet's trees and The Friends printing and postage costs and read Update magazine on your computer.

Each quarter, when Update is published, you will receive an email with a link to the latest issue (each magazine is around 1.5MB). You can try this now by going to our website at [www.fabcnsw.org.au](http://www.fabcnsw.org.au) and clicking on 'Update Magazine'.

If you prefer this delivery option for future 'Updates' please send an email to the Membership Secretary at [fabcmem@fabcnsw.org.au](mailto:fabcmem@fabcnsw.org.au)

As a new member you are also invited to join either the FABCList or the FABCList Digest. There is no obligation to join these free services.

## FABC—Blue Mountains Now on the Web!

**How to find us:**

Go to the *NSW Friends of the ABC*

[www.fabcnsw.org.au/](http://www.fabcnsw.org.au/)

Click on *Local Branches* and click on *Blue Mountains* webpage.