



ON AIR

Newsletter of Friends of the ABC (ACT & Region) Inc

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BIAS NOT AN ISSUE FOR ABC

Media Release - September 3rd

A recent Newspoll survey* of community attitudes to the ABC continues to confirm that the Australian public overwhelmingly believe that the 'ABC is balanced and even-handed' in its reporting of news and current affairs.

Recent monitoring of ABC output by Reham in the lead up to the Federal Election also supports the ABC's standing as an independent and impartial public broadcaster.

"It is reassuring to see that for the fifth consecutive Newspoll Appreciation Survey around 4/5ths of the Australian public believe that the ABC does a very good or quite good job of being balanced and even-handed"

Russell Balding, ABC Managing Director

See more details of report and what Russell Balding had to say on page 5. ■

PRESIDENTS REPORT

WHOSE ABC? OURS?

The ABC is not safe just because Jonathon Shier's gone. It is not adequately funded, it is not led by a Board transparently appointed on the basis of merit, and it is not independent of Coalition Government influence.

So the theme "Whose ABC?" is what we want everyone to have in mind when they vote on October 9. With your copy of On Air and Background Briefing you should receive the pre-election leaflet to be inserted in the Saturday edition of the Canberra Times, on 18 or 25 September. Hope you like it!

We identified funding, Board appointments, and freedom from interference as the three main areas where Friends of the ABC want to see changes; and your committee members have interviewed the principal candidates in the ACT - we simply couldn't see all of them - and we have sought responses from the ALP and Liberal Party candidates in Eden-Monaro - part of the 'region' in our name. Thanks to Rick Godfrey, Ann Hosking, John Ley, Monica Pflaum for joining me in the team who interviewed the candidates.

Do read what the candidates said. Their views are reported elsewhere in this edition. Their brief comments are quoted in the leaflet. I should mention here that although we interviewed Gary Humphries he was unable to provide us with words we could quote. He has however always been very willing to meet us and considers himself a friend of the ABC.

It's said that a picture is better than a thousand words. I am sure you'll agree that the FABC message has indeed been conveyed brilliantly in the cartoon which Alan Moir generously did for us.



You may remember that in an earlier issue of On Air I reported on the idea of a 'lobby group' which we thought the ACT & Region branch was ideally placed to form. Since then we have seen the Australian Democrats Communications spokesman, Senator John Cherry, the ALP shadow minister, Lindsay Tanner, the adviser to the then Minister for Communications, Daryl Williams, and on 12 August I interviewed the current Minister for Communications, Senator Helen Coonan. The reports of two of those interviews are in Background Briefing - unfortunately clearance of the record of conversation with Coonan has still to come from her office. The material from those interviews has been very helpful in giving up-to-date information on the political parties' ABC policy to Friends of the ABC nationally.

Become a Letter Writer

Every day during this election focused on trust Friends of the ABC tune in to ABC Radio and ABC TV to stay in touch. (Surveys indicate, incidentally, that the ABC is the most trusted Australian news source for accurate and balanced reports.) During this election important issues for us include ABC funding, Board appointments and editorial monitoring. We regularly ask Friends of the ABC to write to their political representatives to remind them of vital ABC issues. But let's, during this election, do some monitoring of our own. We suggest Friends check local and national newspapers for coverage of the ABC and public broadcasting.

And the election's not all!

You can read in Background Briefing - or on our website - about the impact of the US Free Trade Agreement on Australian culture. In short, Labor's moves on local content are a long way from what is really needed, which is not to trade our culture as if it were a lamb chop, or even a bag of sugar.

Finally, hearing Jonathan Holmes and having a good dinner sounds a great idea, and it will be a reality on Friday 22 October. Remember, he was a most insightful speaker at our AGM a few years ago? There's more information elsewhere in this edition. Do join us. It should be a good night. ■

Jill Greenwell
President,
Friends of the ABC (ACT & Region)

THEN, if you are inspired, write a letter to the editor to support our national broadcaster. (You may even find your muse in the absence of coverage, and ask why!) ■

Friends can write letters to the editors of:

The Canberra Times on:
letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

The Australian on:
ausletr@newscorp.com.au

The Sydney Morning Herald on:
letters@smh.fairfax.com.au

and The Australian Financial Review on:
edletters@afr.fairfax.com.au

HELP NEEDED!!!

We urgently need a volunteer to co-ordinate our merchandise and stalls. This is not an onerous job but it is too much for our hard-worked Secretary, Barbara Godfrey. Merchandise - like T-shirts, carry bags and stickers - is produced by the various FABC branches around Australia, and needs to be ordered in as our stocks get low. Arranging stalls is made easy because members who have said they would help out always respond well, and committee members help out, with organising and with manning stalls.

Please give it serious thought - and get in touch with Barbara if you can help out.



A new committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The committee for the next year is:

Jill Greenwell - President

☎ 6253 3531
jgreenwell@ozemail.com.au

Margaret O'Connor - Vice President

☎ 6251 1880 (h)
margoforte@hotmail.com

Barbara Godfrey - Secretary

☎ 6291 3680
bgodfrey@netspeed.com.au

Janny Corry - Treasurer & Membership Secretary

☎ 6236 9294 (h)
barada@ozemail.com.au

John Ley - Public Officer

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john_ley@apex.net.au

John Keen - Newsletter Coordination

☎ 6254 2118
keenbavay@aol.com

Helen Wiles - ABC International Watch

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helenbwiles@smartchat.com.au

Howard Silcock - Webmaster

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WHAT YOUR CANDIDATES SAY

Members of your Committee met with candidates from the major parties who are seeking election to Federal Parliament.

We sought their opinion and the policy of their respective parties on three major issues:-

- ▶ Restoration of adequate funding for the ABC.
- ▶ Appointment of members of the board of the ABC.
- ▶ Freedom from political interference and bias monitoring.

A statement of the position of the Friends of the ABC on these issues was left with each and each was asked for replies from which quotes could be taken for the proposed Election Flyer a copy of which comes with On Air.

Here is the full text of the Position Statements given by the candidates.

Further information about policy of the parties can be found on FABC website www.fabcact.org.

Kerrie Tucker, Greens Senate candidate

Jill Greenwell and Ann Hosking met with Kerrie Tucker in July. She was most interested in what we had to say, and responsive to the needs of the ABC generally. The Greens fully support the ABC in its role as Australia's national public broadcaster.

About ABC Board appointments

Public confidence in the independence of ABC Board appointments and the freedom of the Board from political influence has been systematically eroded under the Coalition government.

The Greens support an open and transparent selection process for ABC Board appointments that meets similar merit selection standards that are actively pursued in all government agencies. Vacancies should be publicly advertised and candidates should be short listed against a common set of selection criteria by a committee that is free from external influence and political bias.

About adequate Funding

The Greens are calling for an increase in the level of funding to the ABC to bring it back up to a level that is comparable to public broadcasters in similar developed countries.

While the ABC has done an admirable job in maintaining the quality of its programming, it is clear that the organisation is under enormous pressure. On top of this, many of its vital services have been cut, or outsourced to external providers whose independence cannot be guaranteed.

About freedom from political interference and Bias Monitoring

The ABC is the most scrutinised media organisation in Australia. It already employs very rigorous internal, external and independent mechanisms for handling complaints and appeals; it has a robust system of pre-broadcast quality assurance and review; and it is subject to all of the usual government requirements for parliamentary scrutiny and audit. But there are moves to introduce yet another layer of monitoring!

The Greens are concerned that excessive monitoring of the ABC is costing tax payers real money that could be returned to the organisation to fund programs and services. The Greens are also aware that there is a fine line between monitoring and censorship, and will seek to ensure that monitoring of the ABC does not lead to biases of a different kind. ■

Rachael Jacobs, the No 1. Democrat candidate for the Senate

On 12 August Monica Pflaum and John Ley met with Rachael Jacobs. She showed considerable enthusiasm for the ABC and the importance of its role for all groups in the Australian community. She emphasised the long-standing support the Democrats have given the ABC.

About ABC Board appointments

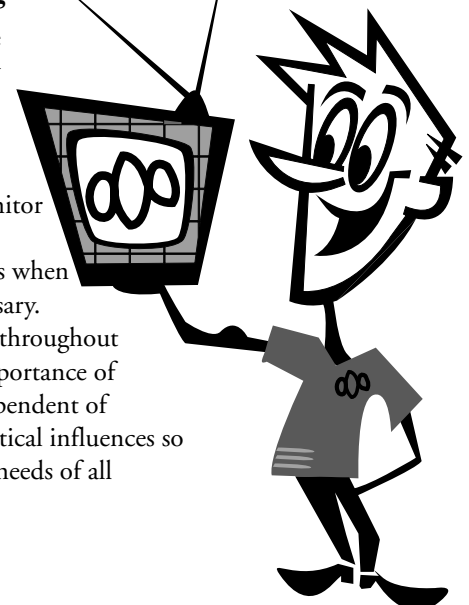
She cited the fact that it was Senator Vicki Bourne who had moved the motion that led to the establishment of a Senate Committee inquiry into the appointment of members of the ABC Board. (Senator Bourne was the Democrat senator responsible for broadcasting issues until mid 2002). Rachael wants to see board appointments being made on merit - not for political reasons.

About adequate funding

Rachael was particularly strong in her emphasis on the importance of the ABC's funding being restored, not simply to the level of 1995-96, in real terms, but to the 1985 level in such terms - a significantly higher level. She sees it as essential that the ABC be able to make programs such as 'Behind the News' and other 'kids' shows for which extra funds are urgently needed.

About freedom from political interference and Bias Monitoring

Rachael said that the Democrats are angry that vital funds are being used to pay commercial organisations to monitor the balance of ABC programs for months when this is quite unnecessary. Rachael emphasised throughout the interview the importance of the ABC being independent of commercial and political influences so that it can meet the needs of all Australians. ■



Bob McMullan, ALP Candidate for Fraser (sitting Member)

Bob is a current and long-standing member of Friends of the ABC (ACT & Region). He spoke to Rick Godfrey and Jill Greenwell in July.

About ABC Board appointments

The ALP has adopted a "Better ABC Board" policy to introduce a system of appointments based on openness and on merit. When asked, Bob McMullan said he didn't know whether it was intended to legislate for this change, or to see how it worked out in practice, before possibly legislating for it.

About adequate funding

When asked about what he, as our local member, would be pressing for he came in quickly and said that the ALP would specify a particular funding increase before the election. When that would be announced would be up to Mark Latham.

He then asked us what particular things we would like to see extra funding applied to. Rick said that our committee felt that Australian drama and children's programmes were priority areas.

Bob McMullan said in his opinion it is the ABC which can make the biggest unique contribution in the area of Australian drama. He raised the possibility of a 'production fund' for unspecified production, without being directed by the purse-strings as to detail.

He did wonder whether radio drama might be a low-cost, but much appreciated, way of boosting one aspect of Australian drama production.

He also added that he hoped that the ALP would be able to squeeze out more money for film and TV production, not directly related to the ABC, but having an impact upon it.

About freedom from political interference and Bias Monitoring

Jill said that it would be good to hear support for the ABC as currently monitored. Otherwise there is a risk that too much monitoring might act as a muzzle on probing criticism.

Bob McMullan said that he is of the opinion that there is "a major campaign of harrassment going on."

"We don't want to do the same thing in reverse," he added.

In his view the government of the day should give the ABC the money and let them get on with it.

"The government's responsibility is to fund the ABC as adequately as possible and then get out of the way."

Whatever the ABC's faults, "they've done pretty damn well over a long time."

"The best ABC is the most independent ABC." ■

Annette Ellis, ALP Candidate for Canberra (sitting Member)

Annette is a current and long-standing member of Friends of the ABC (ACT & Region). She spoke to Rick Godfrey in July, and she described herself as a "loyal fan of the ABC, and a loyal Friend."

About ABC Board appointments

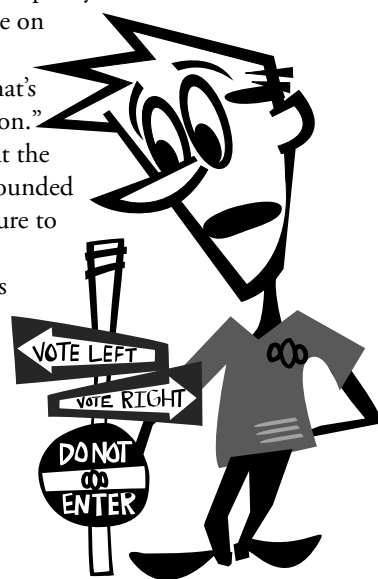
Annette told Rick that "You will be aware of our position on Board appointments - candidates should be short-listed at arms' length from the Minister, by a panel of experts, to ensure that there is a spread of relevant experience."

About adequate funding

"With regard to funding, no policy has been announced, but in an interview on Lateline on

8th April, Mark Latham foreshadowed "a policy that's very good for the institution."

We are also well aware that the budget constraints, compounded by the government's pressure to waste yet more money on collecting evidence on bias in the ABC, have had a deleterious effect on programming, particularly arts programs. We are also concerned by the lack of progress with regard to digital television and broadband."



About freedom from political interference and Bias Monitoring

In Annette Ellis's view, "There is no question that the Howard Government has attempted to reduce the ABC to a government mouthpiece. It is to the credit of the staff and ABC supporters that this has not happened. However, the ABC has been damaged by this pressure and needs some reparation."

She concluded by giving an assurance that there is widespread awareness within Caucus of the need to resuscitate the ABC, and that "I continue to advocate on behalf of our public broadcaster." ■

**VISIT THE FABC WEBSITE FOR ALL
UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION
www.fabcact.org**

PUBLIC FAITH IN ABC BIAS NOT AN ISSUE

Russell Balding's comments continued from page

"The results for individual programs among those who watch or listen to them, such as the 7pm TV News, The 7.30 Report, The World Today, AM and PM, were even higher, ranging from 94 to 89 per cent. Independent surveying of Australians by highly respected sources over recent years has consistently demonstrated the great faith that the public has in ABC reporting."

The ABC has also now completed the pre-election monitoring of some of its programs, undertaken by Rehame. The results indicate that the ABC has competently and extensively covered the diversity of political views in the pre-election period. Now that the Federal election campaign has officially commenced, far more extensive monitoring of ABC programs is being undertaken, as has been the case since 1998," Mr Balding said.

Other highlights of the Newspoll survey* include:

- ↳ 89% of the public believe that the ABC is a valuable service
- ↳ 77% believe the quality of programming on ABC TV is very good or quite good, compared with 40% for commercial TV
- ↳ 61% believe that the quality of ABC radio programming is very good or quite good
- ↳ Of those who visit ABC Online, 87% believe the quality of information is very good or quite good
- ↳ 76% of the population believes that the ABC does a very good or quite good job covering issues in country and regional areas, compared to 43% for commercial broadcasters

* This Newspoll study was conducted by telephone in May/June 2004, among 1,900 adults aged 14 years and over nationally.

ABC Appreciation Survey - Newspoll @ http://abc.net.au/corp/pubs/Summary_Report_04.pdf

Monitoring ABC Pre-Election Coverage, Murray Green, Chairman ABC Election Coverage Review Committee at http://abc.net.au/corp/pubs/monitoring_elections.htm

Newspoll and monitoring documents available at <http://www.abc.net.au/corp/>

WHAT YOUR CANDIDATES SAY

Kel Watt, ALP candidate for Eden Monaro

Kel was contacted by John Ley on 20 August, and emailed a reply in time for us to include Eden Monaro in our pre-election leaflet to be inserted in the Canberra Times - which is distributed throughout the electorate of Eden-Monaro as well as in the ACT.

About ABC Board appointments

Kel referred us to the ALP's "Better ABC Board" policy. He commented that he had been "very concerned about appointments to the ABC Board in the past."

About adequate funding

"Funding the ABC appropriately should

be a priority of any federal government. This ensures all Australians, particularly people in isolated rural areas, have access to news and information." Kel said that in some of the more isolated areas of his electorate the ABC is almost the only source of news and information.

About freedom from political interference

In Kel's opinion, "all media should be independent and unbiased, but particularly a government funded broadcaster."

We appreciate Kel's prompt reply, on what was relatively short notice, to our questions. ■

Kate Lundy, ALP Senator for the ACT

Kate, who is a current member of the Friends of the ABC, spoke to Rick Godfrey in July.

About ABC Board appointments

Kate said that in her opinion John Howard has stacked the ABC Board with conservatives, including Michael Kroger and the recently appointed Ron Brunton. She went on to say that, "The Government has refused to support Labor's policy for an independent ABC Board appointment process."

About adequate funding

Kate accused the Howard Government of starving the ABC of the funding it needs to produce decent public broadcasting services. She said that "When the Howard Government came to power they cut around \$50 million a year from the ABC's Budget from 1996-97. This cut in funding

has never been properly restored. Increased programming expenses and expenditure on new services like ABC Online have finally caught up with the ABC."

She pointed out that the ABC had warned the Government last year that it would not be able to continue with its existing output if the Government did not meet

its request for funding for 2003-2006 budget.

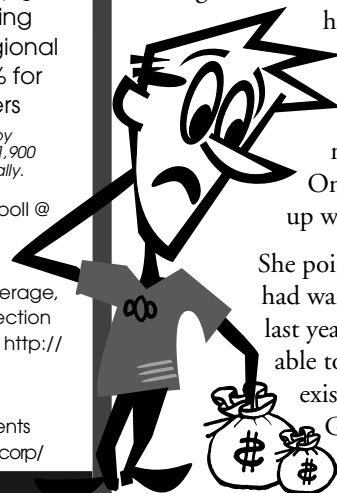
"The Government chose to ignore that warning and with amazing hide is now trying to blame the ABC for the cutbacks caused by the Government's inadequate funding. Labor wants programs like Behind the News and ABC Kids and Fly TV back on the air."

About freedom from political interference

Kate was angry at what she sees as the Howard Government's attempts to bully its staff into complying with the Government's political objectives. She considered the series of complaints launched last year by the then Communications Minister, Senator Alston, to be outlandish claims of bias. What it amounted to was an outrageous and unprecedented attack on the independence of the ABC.

"The Howard Government wants to turn the ABC into a Liberal Party propaganda arm. Journalists and management at the ABC should resist this brazen attempt to intimidate the ABC into complying with the Liberal Party's political objectives," she said.

She said that all Australians should be deeply concerned at the Howard Government's attempts to bully and starve the ABC. This is an unprecedented threat to Australian democracy. ■



Gary Nairn, Liberal Party for Eden-Monaro (sitting member)

Gary was contacted by John Ley in August, and what follows is based on his extensive email reply, to our three basic questions.

About ABC Board appointments -

Mr. Nairn stressed that the Government's primary commitment has always been to ensure that the members of the ABC Board have a mix of skills appropriate to the running of a modern corporation with an annual budget of over \$700 million.

He pointed to a Senate inquiry which in 2001 was unable to demonstrate any problems with the current appointments process.

About adequate funding

Mr. Nairn first referred to last year's Budget, when he said that the Government had fulfilled its election commitment to maintain the ABC's triennial funding in real terms.

What he did not say was that the ABC had sought an increase, in order to expand as well as merely to continue the ABC's current work. Russell Balding warned that "no increase in funding for content will result in a cut in current programs and services."

Mr. Nairn went on to mention the increase of \$4.2 million per year, indexed, in the 2004-05 Budget, for program acquisition, and the renewal of the ABC's Regional and Local Programming funding over three years from 2005-06.

Mr. Nairn pointed to the commitment to digital broadcasting as "a major investment by the Government in public broadcasting, and one that has been consistently ignored by critics of ABC funding".

Unfortunately in saying that the Government "has made a significant and ongoing commitment to supporting the ABC in its move to digital broadcasting," Mr. Nairn overlooked that as far as program production

was concerned the funding was not in fact ongoing. The ABC cut its two digital channels last year because they had been funded out of specific, short-term, funding which was not renewed for this triennium. While it is good that the Government is "funding the entire cost of the ABC's digital transmission services that commenced in 2001 and which will rollout across Australia," those transmission services have to have programs to transmit.

Mr. Nairn also said that "the ABC itself acknowledged that its funding had increased to a level equivalent to or above its 1995-96 funding" at the May Senate Estimates hearings. This was very selective quoting because, had he read on, he would have seen that while this statement is true of total ABC funding, it is not true of the funding for programs. An ABC executive told the Senate Committee that "we are in the order of \$35 million behind 1995-96 figures, in real terms, in money we have available to make programs."

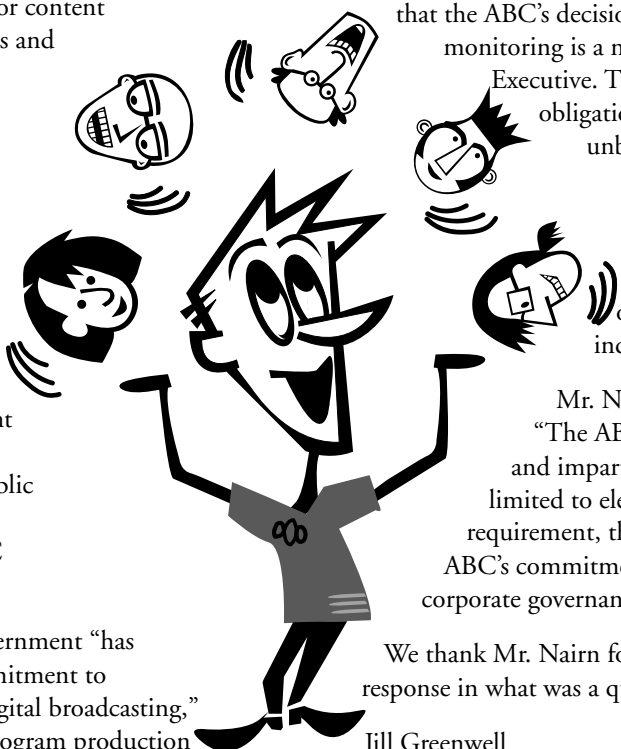
About freedom from political interference -

In response to our question as to whether monitoring of the ABC had become excessive to the point of muzzling the ABC, Mr. Nairn said that, "The Government considers that the ABC's decision to undertake content monitoring is a matter for the ABC Board and Executive. The ABC has legislative obligations to present fair and unbiased reporting. The Government can see no basis on which the ABC's content monitoring could be regarded as inappropriate or impeding the ABC's independence."

Mr. Nairn concluded by saying that, "The ABC's obligations to be accurate and impartial are ongoing and not limited to election periods. Given this requirement, the Government welcomes the ABC's commitment to strengthening its corporate governance processes."

We thank Mr. Nairn for preparing a detailed written response in what was a quite short time. ■

Jill Greenwell



NEW AND EASIER WEBSITE

Have you found the new, easy way to our ACT Friends website? There is fabulous information there. Just go to www.fabcact.org and you are there!

Problems with ABC TV Asia Pacific

In 2002 ABC's overseas TV broadcaster was reinstated as ABC TV Asia Pacific, this time funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with a view to providing a voice for Australia in our region. With the aid of two satellites it has a large geographic footprint and is on air 24 hours a day with one programme only in English. Advertising has been permitted for supplemental income. The programmes were initially addressed (as with Radio Australia for many decades) to the peoples of the region, in the process giving special heed to Australian expatriates for information as per ABC Charter.

In 2003 sponsors of the advertisements began demanding programmes more

suited to them. The directors developed a new policy and divided broadcast time into 60/40 proportions for what was designed for the regions peoples and "other" i.e. a wider audience.

Commercially the channel has grown and prospered but the sponsors are mainly westerners who enjoy programmes which have no relevance to Australia. The risk is that the audiences primarily targeted tune in indiscriminately and Australia gains an image of promoting American or traditional English culture. We may be perceived as merely adjuncts to these, diminishing the great opportunity to befriend and gain the confidence of our neighbours and present our own image.

The programmer of TV Asia Pacific Ian Carroll states that as at July 2004 DFAT accepted this new policy. From then on the Australian content was to be 75%, of the other 25% there is no assurance that the approach and subjects will be acceptable to both audiences. The ABC and the FABC have always been opposed to advertising but government funding is perennially short of the needs. The average taxpayer knows little of the value to the nation of overseas broadcasting; after all he or she has minimal access in Australia to any of the overseas programmes on radio or TV. ■

Report by
Helen Wiles

JONATHAN HOLMES - Distinguished Journalist

Jonathan Holmes has been involved in front-line television current affairs programs - as producer, executive producer and reporter - for almost 35 years.

Born and educated in the UK, he began his career as a General Production Trainee with the BBC in 1969. During the 70's he worked as a producer on such programs as 24 Hours, Nationwide, Midweek, and - for seven years - Panorama.

In April 1982 Jonathan arrived in Sydney for what he thought would be a two-year secondment to the ABC to act as Executive Producer of Four Corners. He stayed for three and a half years, and after a brief sojourn in the United States to help produce the documentary series The Nuclear Age, he returned to Australia to become Head of ABC TV Documentaries. He became an Australian citizen in 1989.

After a brief stint with Channel 10 in 1989, Jonathan became Executive Producer in 1990 of a series of historical documentaries, Hindsight. The Gulf War of 1991 used up the funds that were to have been devoted to Hindsight, so Jonathan instead was asked to set up a new international current affairs program, Foreign Correspondent. He designed the format, recruited the staff, and headed the team for its first year (1992). It is still going strong.

Through the 90's Jonathan worked as a reporter, sometimes on a freelance basis and sometimes on the ABC's staff. He reported from a wide variety of countries, especially in Africa, for Foreign Correspondent. In 1998 he was posted to the ABC's Washington bureau, where he covered the impeachment of Bill Clinton and the dramatic 2000 Presidential election for The 7.30 Report, Lateline and Foreign Correspondent.

In 2001 and 2002, Jonathan was Executive Producer of The 7.30 Report, where he supervised the program's coverage of the Tampa affair and the 2001 election campaign. Since January 2003 he has been back at Four Corners as a reporter. His most recent report was on the forthcoming US election.

In 1988 a documentary on the Hoddle Street massacre, written and co-produced by Jonathan Holmes, was judged Best Political/Social Documentary at the prestigious International TV Festival in Banff Canada.

In 1998, a Foreign Correspondent special on the Balibo Five, reported by Jonathan Holmes and Jill Jolliffe, won the Logie Award for best documentary.

Jonathan has twice been a finalist for Walkley Awards. ■

Invitation to Dinner with Jonathan Holmes

Entertainment: Graeme Adler - Violinist
When: 6.30pm For 7.00pm, Friday 22nd October
Where: Canberra Institute of Technology Restaurant,
Constitution Avenue, Reid.
Cost: \$45 Per Person
(Three Course Meal, Vegetarian on Request)
RSVP: 15th October

*CIT Restaurant is a Fully Licensed Venue
Enquiries: Margaret O'Connor 6251 1880
Bookings Are Essential; Please Return The Tear Off Slip*

ABC REPORTER WITH FOUR COUNERS

DINNER WITH JONATHAN HOLMES

Name(s): _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____

Total Attending: _____ Vegetarian (No?): _____

Enclosed \$ _____

(Tickets will Be Posted On Receipt of Payment)

Post To: Friends of the ABC (ACT and Region), P.O. Box 2625, Canberra 2601



Friends of the ABC (ACT & Region) Inc
GPO Box 2625
CANBERRA ACT 2601

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

Please complete all fields and return form to: Friends of the ABC (ACT and Region) Inc, GPO Box 2625, Canberra ACT 2601

1. Membership

I wish to:

Become a Member Renew my Membership

Enclosed is \$25.00 or \$15.00 concession

2. Personal Details

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms First Name

Surname

3. Contact Details

Street Number Street Name

Suburb Postcode

Home Telephone Work Telephone

Mobile Telephone

4. Delivery

If you have e-mail would you like to receive our quarterly newsletter via e-mail or would you prefer the newsletter posted to you?

Via Post Via Email

Email Address

5. Activities

I can assist in the following activities:-

- | | |
|--|--|
| Help with newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> | Work on Stall <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Help photocopying & collate <input type="checkbox"/> | Wordprocessing/database <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rallies <input type="checkbox"/> | Committee member <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Help with fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone tree <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Letterbox drops <input type="checkbox"/> | Writing letters <input type="checkbox"/> |

Can you offer any special skills eg: useful contacts, writing

Further Information

For further information, please contact 6236 9294 or visit our website at www.fabcact.org

Office use only Member No. _____ Valid to _____

The Friends of the ABC is a national community organisation that supports the ABC as an independent, comprehensive and innovative public broadcaster.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Have you a friend who should be a Friend of the ABC??

We must be able to depend on our ABC to accurately report news and current affairs free from political or commercial influence.

We want our ABC to investigate stories that are behind the news, stories that others may prefer we did not hear.

We want our ABC to reflect our Australian culture and support our Australian artists. The Friends of the ABC are there to help our ABC fulfill this it's charter and support and defend it from political or commercial interests that may try to interfere.

We have no political affiliation and answer to no commercial interests but ask all political parties and those that aspire to political power to respect and support the independence of our ABC.

The greater our membership the greater our ability to achieve our aims and make politicians remember and keep their promises to support the ABC. ■

Convince a friend to join us now.

