



Insider extra

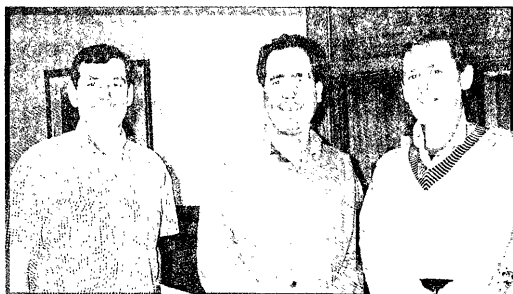
ABA management conference

The changing regulatory environment, with its implications for the ABA, was the broad theme of the ABA's annual planning conference held at Bowral in late February. The conference, attended by ABA



L-R: Gordana Marin (Codes & Conditions), Kathy Evatt (Planning), Linda Sheldon (Research)

members and senior staff, started by considering the future regulatory environment from the broad perspective of the main regulatory agencies involved in broadcasting, AUSTEL, the Spectrum Management Agency (SMA) and the Office of Film and Literature Classification.

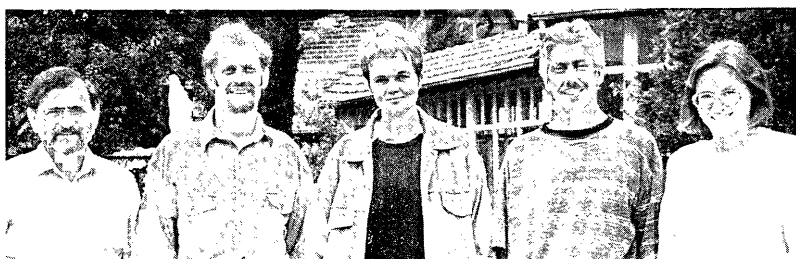


L-R: Gareth Grainger (General Manager, Policy & Programs), Nick Herd (Standards), Peter Webb (Acting Chairman)

A number of senior representatives of organisations involved in broadcasting, its delivery, production, and regulation spoke at the conference. They included Mr Neil Tuckwell, chairman of AUSTEL, Ms Christine

Goode, Spectrum Manager Spectrum Management Agency, senior officers of the Department of Communications and the Arts, and Steve Vizard, Chairman of the Screen Producers Association of Australia. The attendance of these guests reflects the strong links now established between the ABA, its co-regulators, and the industry.

After considering the changing broadcasting regulatory environment, the conference focused on the major issues the ABA would need to address during the forthcoming twelve months, and how it might best deploy its resources to meet these challenges.



L-R: Mike Salloom (Planning), Steven Nugent (Research), Julia Clapin (Policy), John Souter (Allocations & Renewals), Lydia Melnikoff (Planning)



L-R: Liz Gilchrist (Kids), Hai Pham (Planning), Greg Cupitt (TeamS), Giles Tanner (Director, Planning)

Discussions then moved on to consider some of the developments in the industry, including community and subscription services. Future multi-media and satellite services and encouragement of diversity in authorship of



L-R: Pat Manser (Director, Policy & Communications), Neil Skinner (Ownership & Control), Connie Ceramidis (Legal), John Corker (Legal)

Australian program content were also discussed.

The conference dinner was an opportunity for senior staff to farewell the outgoing ABA Chairman, Mr Brian Johns, who has guided the ABA through its formative years to the point where it is today. In reflecting on the feeling of unity amongst participants in the conference, Mr Johns observed that the ABA could now be regarded as a unified organisation which had a clear purpose, the result of contributions from all parts of the ABA, and of the consensus on direction and a corporate vision established set during earlier ABA planning conferences. □



L-R: Colin Knowles (General Manager, Planning & Corporate Services), Candy Tymson (conference facilitator), David Linker (Information Systems)