



Sun July 31
to Sat August 6
2016

Week 32 Highlights



Gruen

Series Return Wednesday 3 August at 8.30pm



You Can't Ask That

Premieres Wed 3 Aug at 9.20pm



Soul Mates II

Premieres Wed 3 Aug at 9.35pm



The Katering Show

New to ABC TV Wed 3 Aug at 9.05pm



Gruen

Series Return

Gruen is back to find out why we buy what we buy...and why the ads on the side of our internet browser want us to buy more. The multi award-winning and critically acclaimed Gruen returns to ABC TV on August 3 at 8.30PM.



Wil, Russel, Todd and a team of new and familiar faces return to deconstruct our vast advertising landscape which gets more freakishly sophisticated every year we find ourselves around the Gruen desk.

Expect to see our panel of experts tackle topical local and international stories, as well as marketing and spin from the sublime to the ridiculous, to the utterly everyday. No topic is too big or small, too stupid or too serious to escape the Gruen treatment. Fan favourite The Pitch returns as Australia's top creative agencies battle it out over the thorniest briefs we can throw at them.

"Nine years after thinking 'we really hope this oddball panel show survives its first week', Gruen returns as one of the ABC's best and most beloved programs. It's a delight to welcome the team back. May they continue to call bullshit on the cynical messaging that surrounds us," said ABC's Head of Entertainment Jon Casimir.

Host Wil Anderson says, "Yes we missed the election, but knowing Australia we will have another one by the end of the series."

In its many incarnations since it debuted in 2008: The Gruen Transfer, Gruen Planet, Gruen Nation, and Gruen Sweat - the show, produced by CJZ, has garnered various awards: the 2010 AFI Award for Best Light Entertainment Program; the 2012 AACTA Award for Best Light Entertainment Program; the Rose d'Or in 2013; and this year, the Logie Award for Most Outstanding Entertainment program.

The extended Gruen XL will also be seen on ABC2 and iview.

#Gruen

Short synopsis

Gruen is back to find out why we buy what we buy. And why the ads on the side of our internet browser want us to buy more. Wil, Russel, Todd and a team of new and familiar faces will deconstruct the advertising landscape.

Production details:

CJZ and ABC TV co-production; Executive producers: Nick Murray (CJZ); Wil Anderson; Richard Huddleston (ABC); Series Producer Polly Connolly

Contact

Kristine Way on 02 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282 or Way.Kris@abc.net.au

For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



You Can't Ask That

Series Premiere

Misunderstood, marginalised Australians answering anonymous, online questions.

What would happen if you gave people the chance to ask society's outsiders the questions they were too embarrassed, too shy, too awkward and too scared to ask? What would happen if those stereotyped minorities were given the right to answer those questions with dignity and depth?



The answer is an exercise in stereotype busting. *You Can't Ask That*, a ten part ABC original series, confronts prejudice and discrimination in a highly entertaining format, offering genuine insight into the lives of Australians who live with labels, whose days are filled with the sidelong glances and silent disapproval of others.

The series plunges joyfully into the lives of short statured Australians, wheelchair users, the transgendered, Muslims, ex-prisoners, fat people, Indigenous, sex workers, the terminally ill and the polyamorous. It asks forthright and at times uncomfortable questions, which result in illuminating, moving and surprising answers.

You Can't Ask That is life-affirming, insightful, hilarious and refreshingly inappropriate television. But more importantly, it gives some of the most judged and least understood Australians the chance to be heard. Tonight's first episode shines the spotlight on Wheelchair users as they answer questions including: Do you care if people use the disabled toilet? What are the perks of life in a wheelchair? Do you use it to skip lines? How do you really feel when people call you inspirational?

The complete series will be available on iview from Wednesday 3rd August and will also screen weekly on ABC TV.

Short synopsis

Misunderstood, marginalised Australians answering anonymous, online questions. Insightful, irreverent and moving this episode sets the record straight of what it's really like to be a wheelchair user.

Production details

An ABC Production. Series Produced and Directed by Kirk Docker and Aaron Smith. ABC Executive Producer Lou Porter.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera 03 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 or kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Soul Mates II

Best friends forever, intertwined for eternity, navigate love, loyalty and honour into cavemen times, Ancient Egypt, the 1980s Australia-New Zealand cold war, and 2016's hipster-ridden Bondi.

The bromance for the ages has come around again, with the cycle of life, death and inappropriate humour in *Soul Mates II*.

Hirsute philosophers, cavemen Sticks and Rocky have found their tribe but must unravel the complexities that come with living in a society: Who does what jobs? Why do we need money? And most importantly, who is most popular?

The Bondi Hipsters have big plans to find underground success as they open a 'closed' theme café, tackle the film industry, and exfoliate Bondi of Brazilians who hog all the buff. But dare they collaborate with arch-rival Dan Bingle and Ksodomi? Is Phoenix really a woman trapped in a man's body? And is all of this enough to finally gain them access to the Illuminati?

The Kiwi Assassins, Terry Thinge and Roger Blade are on enemy soil to discover why the New Zealand schoolboy team has lost to the Aussies, again. Undercover in a private school among a tangled scrum of lies, drugs and suspicious Maori looking "local" rugby lads, can Thinge overcome his jealousy when Mum does what her country demands? Will Roger's infatuation for his teacher threaten the mission? And just who is behind Australia's latest evil plot?

Hatshepsut is an Ancient Egyptian female pharaoh and tiger mum who plays her children against each other. There's the artsy bastard son Seti, and demi-god Thutmose, Seti's falcon-headed, half brother. When Hatshepsut demands the creative Seti renovate Thutmose's tomb in preparation for his ascension to the next life, Seti meets Amram, a capable, quick-witted slave. Seti is confident they can work together on this fixer-upper to host the best boob traps and spookiest curses, but for Amram it's simply about balancing every insane whim of his master to stay alive. As they become a team, is a friendship forming or is it something much more mystical that will affect their souls forever.

Soul Mates II will also be available to binge on ABC iview in its entirety after episode 1 airs at 9.35pm on ABC TV.

You can also catch-up on the first series of *Soul Mates* on ABC iview for two weeks from 20 July.

#SoulMatesTV

Series Premiere



Short synopsis

The Bondi Hipsters open a closed themed café, while the Kiwi Assassins reclaim Phar Lap's heart for New Zealand. The Cavemen discover 'jobs', while in Ancient Egypt, the bastard son of the Pharaoh gets a new slave.

Production details

A Van Vuuren Bros and Ludo Studios production in association with ABC, Seeso, Screen Australia and Screen NSW.

Contact

Safia van der Zwan on 02 8333 3846 or VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).

★Top Pick

Wednesday 3 August, 9.05pm



The Katering Show

New to ABC TV

Food intolerant Kate McCartney and her intolerable smug foodie co-host Kate McLennan, return – this time to ABC TV – with series 2 of **The Katering Show**.

In series two, McCartney and McLennan take a Sassy Swipe™ at the over-hyped food trend of Ramen; they take the term “Yummy Mummy” way too literally; they sample a tablet that counteracts lactose intolerance in an episode ~~dubiously~~ cleverly titled *It Gets Feta*; they subject themselves and a special guest to the latest weight loss torture regimes of Paleo, Raw Food and The 5:2 Diet; and they dedicate an episode to their culinary hero and spirit bosom, Maggie Beer, where they peddle their own noxious version of verjuice.



But The Kates are aiming to give back too; to use their position as attractive celebrity chefs and trained *actors* to change the world. First, they'll use their no talent to address the important issue of marriage equality. McLennan will then check her white privilege by generously inviting *The Daily Show*'s Ronny Chieng into the kitchen in an episode that highlights both McLennan's sunny bigotry and her lack of star power.

And finally The Kates will solve climate change - and the cracks in their relationship - by cooking with kitchen scraps from the series in their celebratory End of Days farewell.

Of course, the entire flirty little series is peppered with references to The Kates' crumbling personal situations; including, but not limited to, McCartney's rat piss soaked rental property and McLennan's endless bouts of 'in-knicker' infections.

Short synopsis

Food intolerant Kate McCartney and her intolerable smug foodie co-host Kate McLennan return – this time to ABC TV – with series 2 of **The Katering Show**.

Production details

Lead Balloon TV Production. Written by and starring Kate McLennan and Kate McCartney. Produced by Tamasin Simpkin.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 or kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).

Sunday 31 July, 7.40pm



Grand Designs New Zealand

Sydney-based writer Scott Lawrie's plans for his new life in New Zealand are encapsulated in a sculptural steel house he is building on a remote rural hillside behind Pakiri beach, a coastal farming village known for its surf, sand and sleepy beauty only 90 minutes from Auckland.

Scott has an unrelenting refusal to compromise on his "legacy", but a budget can only be stretched so far. Will Scott realize his extraordinary dream?

Short synopsis

Sydney-based writer Scott Lawrie is moving to New Zealand and plans to build a sculptural steel house on a remote hillside. He has a tight budget and an unrelenting refusal to compromise on his "legacy".

Production details

Presented by Chris Moller.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 9524 2580 or Bassett.Kim@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Barracuda

Final

It's the opening night of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and the nation is buzzing with excitement. It's been two years since Danny's public loss and humiliation at the Commonwealth Games and he is still consumed with overwhelming disappointment and anger. He finishes his day at his dead-end job and returns home to the Kelly house where the family feels more fractured than ever.

Lifelong friend Demet persuades him to join their friends at the pub but there's no escaping the Olympic fever taking over Melbourne. The final straw comes when he sees a familiar face on the TV parading proudly in the opening ceremony – Wilco. He's made the Olympic team.

Danny departs wanting to drown his sorrows. He heads uninvited to the Taylor residence where he's heard there's a party. It soon becomes apparent this is not an Olympic celebration, but Taylor's engagement party. The night takes a turn for the worse and Danny leaves the Taylor home in the back of a police car.

When Danny hits rock bottom, Stephanie enlists Torma's help. He offers a helping hand but Danny refuses.

Torma finally catches up with Danny and forces him to face one of his greatest fears. He also shares a moment which totally puts life into perspective for the broken young man.

Can Danny find redemption for the shame and humiliation of two years ago? And can Torma help him back into the water to swim again? CAST: Elias Anton, Matt Nable, Victoria Haralabidou, Jeremy Lindsay Taylor.

All four episodes are still available on iview to binge.

#barracuda

Short synopsis

Two years later, Danny is still devastated by his loss. A fight with Martin puts Danny in danger of losing everything. Forced to confront his shame, Danny turns to Torma for a chance at redemption. CAST: Elias Anton.

Production details

The ABC and Screen Australia present in association with Film Victoria a Matchbox Pictures production. Written by Blake Ayshford and Belinda Chayko. Associate Producer Christos Tsiolkas. Produced by Tony Ayres and Amanda Higgs. Directed by Robert Connolly. ABC TV Executive Producers Carole Sklan and Brett Sleigh.

Contact

Tracey Taylor on 03 8646 2313 / 0419 528 213 or taylor.tracey@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Forces Of Nature With Brian Cox

Series Premiere

Professor Brian Cox combines some of the most spectacular sights on Earth with our deepest understanding of the universe, to reveal how our planet's beauty is created by just a handful of forces.

In episode one, *The Universe In A Snowflake*, Brian uncovers how the stunning diversity of shapes in our natural world are shadows of the rules that govern the Universe. In Northern Spain he shows how a breathtaking attempt by hundreds of people to build the highest human tower reveals the force that shapes our planet.

In Nepal, honey-hunters seek out giant beehives that cling to precipitous cliff walls. The perfect hexagonal honeycombs made by the bees to store their precious honey conceal a mathematical rule.

Off the coast of Canada, Brian explains how some of the most irregular, dangerous shapes in nature - massive icebergs that surge down from Greenland and into shipping lanes of the Atlantic - emerge from a powerful yet infinitely small force of nature. Even the most delicate six-sided snowflake tells an extraordinary story of the forces of nature that forged it - the same forces that created everything in the Universe.

Short synopsis

Professor Brian Cox combines some of the most spectacular sights on Earth with our deepest understanding of the universe, to reveal how our planet's beauty is created by just a handful of forces.

Production details

Presenter: Professor Brian Cox. Director: Matthew Dyas. Executive Producer: Andrew Cohen. Producer: Matthew Dyas. Series Producer: Danielle Peck. A BBC production with PBS co-produced by France Télévisions.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 9524 2580 or Bassett.Kim@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).



Live From The BBC

Filmed in front of a live audience from the BBC's iconic Radio Theatre, this exciting series of stand-up specials presents the comedy stars of the future.

The British stand-up scene is a hotbed of creativity that attracts the most distinctive comic voices from around the world.

In Live from the BBC, some of the world's brightest comic acts join with local UK comedians, in the intimate setting of the BBC Radio Theatre, for searing live stand-up performances. Acts include: Edinburgh Comedy Award-winning New Yorker Alex Edelman; multi-award winning Australian Felicity Ward; four-time Edinburgh Comedy Award-nominee James Acaster; Denmark's Sofie Hagen, winner of Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards; and critically acclaimed upcoming acts including Dane Baptiste and Nish Kumar.

This is a new breed of stand-up show that gives comics free rein to express their talent. These are comedy's household names of the future, captured at the top of their game in the authentic style of the club circuit.

In this episode, our very own Felicity Ward dissects everything from insomnia and anxiety to UK toilet attendants and falling in love. She is joined by former Scottish Comedian of the Year Larry Dean, who brings his own unique style of comedy to the stage

Short synopsis

Our very own Felicity Ward dissects everything from insomnia and anxiety to UK toilet attendants and falling in love. She is joined by former Scottish Comedian of the Year, Larry Dean.

Production details

Producer: Lindsay Jex; Executive Producer for BBC: Tilusha Ghelani; Executive Producer: Lucy Ansbro. Live from the BBC is a Phil McIntyre Television production for BBC in association with BBC Worldwide.

Contact

Bridget Stenhouse on (02) 8333 3847 or Stenhouse.Bridget@abc.net.au

For previews, more information and images visit the [media portal](#).

Marketing Contacts

Sydney

Chris Chamberlin	(02) 8333 2154 / 0404 075 749 Chamberlin.Chris@abc.net.au	News Publicist - 7pm News, ABC News 24, 7.30, Four Corners, Foreign Correspondent, Media Watch, Q&A, Insiders, Lateline, ABC News Breakfast, The Drum, Offsiders, Behind the News, Australia Wide, National Press Club, The Mix, The World, One Plus One, Grandstand, The Business, Planet America, Federal Election 2016, Kitchen Cabinet
Bridget Stenhouse	(02) 8333 3847 / 0419 846 333 Stenhouse.Bridget@abc.net.au	ABC2, Compass, Live From The BBC, Man Up
Kristine Way	(02) 8333 3844 / 0419 969 282 Way.Kris@abc.net.au	The Code, Rake, Janet King, Gruen
Safia Van der Zwan	(02) 8333 3874 VanDerZwan.Safia@abc.net.au	Play School 50 th Birthday, Soul Mates, Nowhere Boys, You're Skitting Me, Kazoops

Melbourne

Kim Bassett	(03) 9524 2580 / 0409 600 456 Bassett.Kim@abc.net.au	Catalyst, Gardening Australia, Grand Designs, The Book Club, How To Stay Young, Grand Designs NZ
Yasmin Kentera	(03) 9524 2629 / 0418 813 071 Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au	Comedy Showroom, The Katering Show, Rosehaven, Dr Blake Mysteries, Australian Story, You Can't Ask That
Tracey Taylor	(03) 9524 2313 / 0419 528 213 Taylor.Tracey@abc.net.au	The Weekly With Charlie Pickering, Shaun Micallef's MAD AS HELL, Barracuda, Seven Types of Ambiguity, Upper Middle Bogan, Tomorrow When The War Began

Communications Manager :

Imogen Corlette	(02) 8333 3845 / 0410 520 776 Corlette.Imogen@abc.net.au
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Programming Enquiries:

Tania Caggegi (ABC & ABC News 24) (02) 8333 4633	Anna Bruter (ABC2 & ABC3) (02) 8333 3843
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Mary Fraser	(02) 8333 3848
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