



Sunday 17 to Saturday 23 December 2017



Week 51 Highlights

 **ABC iView** **The Yearly With Charlie Pickering**
Wednesday 20 December 8.30pm



 **ABC iView** **The Book Club: 5 Of The Best**
Tuesday 19 December 8.30pm



 **ABC iView** **Gardening Australia: Christmas Special**
Friday 22 December 7.30pm



Tonightly With Tom Ballard
Weeknights at 9.00pm



The Yearly With Charlie Pickering

If 2016 felt like a big year, 2017 stepped up and said “hold my beer.” With the newly-crowned President Trump tweeting up trouble, Kim Jong-un raining missiles on the Pacific, and foreign citizens running rampant in Parliament, it’s time to ask: could 2017 prove to be the newsiest year ever? And whatever happened to fidget spinners?

In this end-of-year special, Charlie Pickering and the Weekly team reunite to rip open the year that was 2017. Chances are they’ll announce the wrong winner.

#TheYearly

Short synopsis

Charlie Pickering and the Weekly team look back on 2017, the year when President Trump, postal surveys, Kim Jong-un, fidget spinners, and undercover Kiwi MPs plunged us all into la-la land. Er, sorry: Moonlight. #TheYearly

Production details

A Thinkative Television production in association with ABC TV. Executive Producers: Kevin Whyte, Charlie Pickering and Chris Walker. ABC Executive Producer: Tarni James.

Contact

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

**Program not yet available for preview.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



Gardening Australia: Christmas Family Special

The *Gardening Australia* presenters get together to celebrate the festive season, with Christmas lunch at the beautiful Werribee Mansion in Victoria.

In this hour-long special, Costa cooks up a very Australian Christmas feast with chef Mark Olive.

Sophie shows us around the stunning Victoria State Rose Garden; Tino and Millie enjoy a day out at nearby Werribee Open Range Zoo.

Jane learns the secrets of lawn care from the caretakers of a very special lawn – the MCG, and visits a poinsettia grower.

Tino meets a local Werribee vegie grower; Jerry shows us his favourite sub-tropical plants for festive colour.

Sophie makes a beautiful Christmas wreath with Aussie natives, and we put our excess cherries to good use.

Short synopsis

In a one hour special Costa and the *Gardening Australia* presenters get together to celebrate the festive season, with Christmas lunch at the beautiful Werribee Mansion in Victoria.

Production details

Executive Producer: Tarni James. Series Producer: Gill Lomas.

Contact

Kim Bassett on 03 8646 2580 or bassett.kim@abc.net.au

**Program not yet available for preview.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**



The Book Club: 5 Of The Best

Host Jennifer Byrne and regular guests Marieke Hardy and Jason Steger are joined by author and screenwriter Benjamin Law, and Wheeler Centre director Michael Williams, in the Book Club's one-hour end-of-year special, FIVE OF THE BEST 2017, to celebrate and discuss standout 2017 reads.

As the series comes to an end, it's time to celebrate a year of great reads... and to look back through the archive at 11 years of Book Club guests, disputes, funny moments and in-depth reviews.

Jennifer's choice is the long-awaited *The Book of Dust* by Philip Pullman; Jason has chosen *The Restorer* by Australian author Michael Sala, and set at the time of the 1989 Newcastle earthquake; Marieke looks to her unofficial "life coach", Robert Dessaix, for *The Pleasures of Leisure*. Benjamin brings *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* by Reni Eddo-Lodge; and rounding out the list Michael recommends is the Man Booker Prize-nominated *Home Fire*, by Kamila Shamsie.

Throughout the show, discover what other enthusiastic readers – children and booksellers – picked as their top books of 2017. Plus, don't miss the big reveal of The Book Club's Audience Poll winners – *your* FIVE OF THE BEST.

The show will culminate with Jimmy Barnes performing live in the studio his emotive classic, *Flame Trees*.

Michael Williams is the Director of the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas in Melbourne. Previous host of ABC Radio National's *Blueprint for Living*, he now hosts *Talkfest* and is a regular guest on other ABC Radio and TV programs. He has written extensively for *The Guardian*, *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian* among others.

Benjamin Law is a journalist, TV screenwriter, columnist and the author of two books: *The Family Law* (2010) and *Gaysia: Adventures in the Queer East* (2012), both of which were nominated for Australian Book Industry Awards. *The Family Law* is now an award-winning series on SBS. He was also an associate producer and researcher on the SBS feature documentary *Deep Water: The Real Story*, is the author on the current Quarterly Essay on Safe Schools and has a PhD in writing from QUT.

Short synopsis

Join Jennifer, Marieke and Jason to celebrate a year of great reads... plus as the series comes to an end, to look back through the archive at 11 years of Book Club guests, disputes, funny moments and in-depth reviews.

Production details

An ABC production; Executive Producer Jo Chichester, producer Marie Davies.

Contact

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**Program not yet available for preview.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).**

★**Top Pick**
Weeknights at 9.00pm



Tonightly with Tom Ballard

Armed with nothing but jokes and access to memes, **Tonightly with Tom Ballard** will investigate and explain the latest headlines and the things you missed-

It's the show you didn't know you desperately needed, until now.

From the chaos in Canberra to the mildly-troubled Middle East, from the outer reaches of space to the depths of the internet, *Tonightly* isn't afraid to go there and ask the big questions, like "What is Apple?", "Should the Big Four banks lose weight?", "Will Donald Trump nuke political correctness with climate change?" and "Popular Culture - do we need it?" Nor will it shy from giving you guaranteed advice on how to be a hit at the discotheque with all your cool facts about blockchain.

Helming the desk and wrangling live interviews, sketches, infographics, reviews and the daily headlines is award-winning comedian Tom Ballard (triple j breakfast, Q&A for some reason). Joining Tom each night is a team of news, tech, culture and sports addicts who are fully across everything ever: Greta Lee-Jackson (*SkitBox*), Greg Larsen (*Fancy Boy*) and Bridie Connell (*Whose Line Is It Anyway? Australia*). These three are the show's field reporters, putting their bodies on the line for the sake of truth, facts and punchlines. A wider family of contributing comedic voices from around the nation will provide insights and "fire" "content" on a regular basis.

Short synopsis

Award-winning comedian Tom Ballard investigates and explains the latest headlines and the things you missed. It's the show you didn't know you desperately needed until now.

Production details

An ABC Television production. Executive Producers - Andrew Garrick and Nick Hayden. Production Executive Lou Porter. Head of Entertainment Debbie Cuell.

Contact

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

Program not available for preview.
For more information and images visit the [media portal](#).

Christmas on ABC KIDS

ABC KIDS begins its Christmas celebrations with the premiere of the adorable ***Guess How Much I Love You Christmas Special***.

On a snow-covered Christmas Eve, Little Nutbrown Hare and friends stumble across a little Brown Bear who is lost. Determined to return their young friend back to his mother in time for Christmas, Little Nutbrown Hare and Little Field Mouse venture bravely into the unknown woods while Little Redwood Fox and Little Grey Squirrel go to find Big Nutbrown Hare.

But when night falls and snow covers their paw prints they realise they are all lost. Now the young heroes face missing Christmas with their own families and friends. As they build a snow cave to sleep in, they are comforted by the moon. It's the moon that comes to their rescue - its light captures Little Field Mouse's Christmas Decoration, and sparkles brightly, capturing the attention of the grown-ups and leading to their reunion. Christmas morning is shared with their new friends.

Short synopsis

On a snow-covered Christmas Eve, Little Nutbrown Hare & friends stumble across a little Brown Bear who is lost. Determined to return their friend back to his mother, the friends venture on a journey into the unknown woods.

Production details

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Contact

Amy Reiha on (02) 8333 3852 or Reiha.Amy@abc.net.au

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



Dara O'Briain: Crowd Tickler

After 105 sold-out shows across the UK and Ireland, Dara O'Briain brings his hilarious 2015 tour to the legendary Hammersmith Apollo.

In Crowd Tickler, Dara dissects modern life with surgical precision, turning his laser-like eye for the absurd on a broad range of subjects. It's a rip-roaring journey through expertly crafted routines, cracking one-liners and lightning-fast wisecracks.

Short synopsis

Dara dissects modern life with surgical precision, turning his laser-like eye for the absurd on a broad range of subjects, with an expertly crafted routinee cracking one-liners and lightning-fast wisecracks.

Production details

Written by and starring Dara O'Briain; Producer Anthony Caveney; Director Paul Wheeler; An Open Mike Production.

Contact

TV Publicity on 8333 3848 or tvpublicity@abc.net.au

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



Back Roads

Back Roads continues to journey along the Oodnadatta Track in South Australia, meeting the people who call this remote area home.

Heather Ewart hitches a lift along the Oodnadatta Track with truck driver Kris 'Wally' Wallis. They drive from William Creek to Oodnadatta, where Wally drops off groceries and hauls unexpected cargo – once he got a call to pick up a dead body. They pull in to Oodnadatta, population 200, which is preparing to host the annual campdraft and bronco branding competition. The busiest place in town is The Pink Roadhouse, which is owned and run by Adriana Jacob and her husband.

Heather heads out to an isolated cattle station called Todmorden where almost all of the staff hail from overseas. The station overseer, Harvey Vermeulen, is from Namibia and the cook, Altea Salami, is from Italy.

Back in Oodnadatta, Bridie Ferguson is competing in the bronco branding event. Bridie, her husband and small children, have driven 650 kilometres to be here. Bridie says it's a rare chance to socialise and catch up with old friends.

Adriana at the Pink Roadhouse receives a visit from the former owner of the business, her old friend Lynnie Plate. Lynnie and her husband Adam lived in Oodnadatta for 40 years and turned the roadhouse into a landmark and painted it pink. Sadly, Adam was killed in a car rally accident five years ago. Adriana is continuing Adam's commitment to looking after people who adventure along the Oodnadatta track. The people out here are drawn together by a reliance on each other. Anyone who has lived here finds it very hard to leave.

Short synopsis

Heather continues along the Oodnadatta Track, SA. She hitches a lift with 'Wally' the truck-driver who delivers essential supplies; meets the Pink Roadhouse owner; as well as the workers at an isolated cattle station.

Production details

Back Roads is the flagship series of the ABC Regional Division. Executive Producer, Brigid Donovan. Series Producer Louise Turley. Supervising Producer, Kerri Ritchie. Field Producers, Lisa Whitehead and Karen Michelmores.

Contact

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

GameFace

Hot on the heels of the UK's E4 broadcast and after a smashing pilot, comedian Roisin Conaty stars as Marcella, an aspiring actress who spiritedly crashes her way through life, assisted by her dubious life-coach, best friends and ever-patient driving instructor. Bouncing back from a seismic break-up, clinging on to her dreams of becoming an actress, and - when she remembers her lessons - finally learning to drive, Marcella is on a mission to change her future for the better.

Packed with wry and idiosyncratic observations, *GameFace* is a witty, tender and resonant comedy about navigating your thirties when you're under-prepared - but somehow always staying afloat.

Marcella is thrilled to have a role in a film, but her delight is short-lived when her actions accidentally cause the lead actress to have a meltdown. With filming cancelled for the day she finds herself running into Jon and discovers that there's more to him than meets the eye. After a boozy, giddy and confusing evening they re-unite at the film screening, but as the night unfolds it becomes far from the triumphant occasion Marcella had hoped for.

#GameFace

Short synopsis

Marcella is thrilled to have a film role, but her delight is short-lived when her actions cause the lead actress to have a meltdown. And after running into Jon she discovers that there's more to him than meets the eye.

Production details

GameFace is an Objective Fiction for E4, UK, Writer: Roisin Conaty, Executive Producers: Ben Farrell (Toast of London) and Roisin Conaty, Producer: Charlotte Lewis (Witless) and Director: Andrew Chaplin (Witless).

Contact

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

Plumpton High Babies: Ten Years On

10 years ago in Sydney's outer west, acclaimed filmmaker Aviva Ziegler spent a year filming at Plumpton High where an idealistic headmaster, Glenn Sargeant, battled to help a handful of pregnant 15 and 16-year-olds continue their education.

The Plumpton High Young Mothers Programme was the only one of its kind in Australia, possibly even the world. Glenn believed that education could provide opportunities for even the poorest and most marginalised of students; if he could encourage their hopes and aspirations he could open doors to a world far beyond the one they knew or expected.

For all the immediate drama of their impending motherhood the year Aviva spent observing the teenagers in Glenn's programme was the easy bit. The series left the girls and their babies on the threshold of their lives together – with the real story yet to unfold.

Plumpton High Babies 10 Years On shines a powerful spotlight on the lives of three of those three young women. It is only on returning to the complex realities of the girls' lives today that we see how much they and their children have at stake.

Simone, the girl Glenn held the most hope for, is doing it tough. Mark, the boyfriend for whom she dropped out of school, is bipolar and struggles to get work. At 27, Simone is already pinning her hopes for the future on the next generation. But can her young son live up to this?

Meanwhile, Jacinta – despite teenage tragedy – has never given up her rose-coloured dreams. She is planning to get married – if only she can afford the wedding.

In stark contrast, 27-year-old Baby has finally made it to university but the demanding struggles of single motherhood and full-time study are weighing her down.

As they struggle with family, relationships, work and self-esteem, we see whether they have managed to get a foothold on a new life or whether they have been overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their control. Did his programme help any of them in the challenges they currently face? Did it break the welfare cycle? What difference, if any, did it make?

While searching for answers to these questions, this film digs into and confronts our mainstream values and perceptions of success. Above all, it challenges our preconceptions – constantly surprising us with realities that are far more complex than the stereotypes would have us believe.

Short synopsis

This film shines a powerful spotlight on the lives of three young women who acclaimed filmmaker Aviva Ziegler met over ten years ago when they were part of a unique programme to keep teenage mothers at school.

Production details

Screen Australia and Southern Pictures Production; Directed by Aviva Ziegler; Written by Aviva Ziegler, Laurie Critchley, Andrew Arestides.

Contact

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

Kiki And Kitty

Kiki and Jack are close to consummating their passion on the couch, until Jack discovers Admirer 6332's dick pic on Kiki's phone. Shocked, Jack makes his excuses and leaves. When Kiki and Kitty realise what's happened, Kitty also notices something familiar about the wedding ring the Admirer wears.

Kiki's boss approves her return to work, on the condition that she passes a class in Workplace Appropriateness. Kiki quits her job at the ice rink to Bryce's great disappointment. Mum thinks this is great news — Kiki can get her life back to normal — but Nan thinks her granddaughter should stick to what she loves. Kitty says she'll die if Kiki goes back to lawyering.

Meanwhile there is one more challenge to cross off the list – win an ice-skating competition. Kitty submits Kiki to a fierce boot camp, in a children's playground, in preparation for the competition.

Kiki conspires to book Jack as her Rider driver, and en-route to the rink, Jack confronts her about Admirer 6332's dick pic.

At the rink, Kiki tries to back out of the competition when she sees the top class warming up, but Kiki is skating against the intermediate class. Mum, Nan, Jack and even Cherise are all there to cheer her on. Kitty won't let her back out now.

Short synopsis

Kiki with Kitty's encouragement takes action to get her job back and confronts her colleagues, whilst also getting it on with Jack before competing in an ice-skating competition. CAST Nakkiah Lui, Elaine Crombie.

Production details

A Porchlight Films Production in association with ABC and Screen Australia. Created and Written by Nakkiah Lui. Produced by Liz Watts and Sylvia Warmer. Executive Producers, Anita Sheehan and Vincent Sheehan. ABC Executive Producers Kelrick Martin and Sally Riley.

Contact

Yasmin Kentera on 03 8646 2629 / 0418 813 071 or Kentera.Yasmin@abc.net.au

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

QI Christmas Special

Sandi Toksvig and Alan Davies are joined by Josh Widdicombe, Susan Calman and Matt Lucas for the long-running panel show - and this week it's a festive special.

So Sandi's elves have been busy coming up with tough questions on the subject of - what else? - Noel. As usual, correctness and even intelligence go out of the window in this quiz, in which the questions are so difficult that points are awarded for answers considered to be most interesting.

Tucked away into this Noel-themed festive edition like sixpences in a Christmas pudding are parlour games including: Are You There, Moriarty?

"Stephen would never have allowed this!" tuts Matt Lucas amid the mayhem.

There are also a few of Sandi Toksvig's wonderful "randi-scandi" facts, Susan Calman does a brilliant impression of a drunk, and the panel is stumped by the question: "Who are Spoon Licker, Doorway Sniffer, Sausage Swiper and Meat Hook?"

Host Sandi Toksvig; Panellist Alan Davies, Susan Calman Matt Lucas, Josh Widdicombe

Short synopsis

Sandi Toksvig and Alan Davies are joined by Josh Widdicombe, Susan Calman and Matt Lucas for a brand new festive special.

Production details

A Talkback Thames and Quite Interesting Production for BBC.

Contact

TV Publicity on 8333 3848 or tvpublicity@abc.net.au

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

4 Days of Christmas

The Christmas celebrations continue on ABC KIDS and and ABC KIDS iview with four days (Friday December 22 – Monday December 25) filled with festive programs featuring pre-schoolers' favourite characters including *Peppa Pig*, *Ready Jet Go!* *Timmy's Christmas Surprise*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Octonauts*, and more.

On Friday 22 December at 9.30am, ABC KIDS premieres the ***Sesame Street Christmas Special***.

It's Christmas Eve on Sesame Street, and Elmo's father, Louie, tells a story that transports Elmo and viewers back to the 19th century, a time when Sesame Street wasn't the friendly place we know today.

With the help of a spunky 19th century girl, Smudge, and some magical shopkeepers – Bella (Zosia Mamet), and Holly, a Muppet who lights up with the holiday spirit – Elmo brings the holidays back to Sesame Street!

Join Elmo, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, and the whole Sesame Street gang as they learn the true meaning of the holiday season through acts of kindness.

Short synopsis

Join Elmo, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, and the whole Sesame Street gang as they learn the true meaning of the holiday season through acts of kindness.

Production details

Sesame Street Workshop.

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