

Thursday 15th October 2015

ABC On The Road to Toowoomba

Some of the ABC's best known national programs are heading to Toowoomba on Queensland's Darling Downs to profile this uniquely Australian community, tell local stories and explore its rich heritage. For one week from October 26, a number of ABC journalists, presenters and crew will join their ABC Toowoomba colleagues to produce some of the ABC audience's favourite programs across radio, television, news and online.

Through its regional offices the ABC is deeply connected to regional Australia and every day champions local stories, providing a multitude of platforms to regional voices. However, **ABC On The Road** is a new pilot initiative to further the way the ABC connects with rural and regional Australia and share its stories on a national platform, highlighting common issues and themes that touch us all.

The ABC aims to put a brighter spotlight on life in regional Australia and bring those who live in metro centres and in regional communities closer together. **Q&A, Weekend Breakfast, AM, The Book Club, Studio 3, triple j Hack, Gardening Australia** and **Australia All Over with Macca** are among the popular ABC shows that will be represented in Toowoomba for the week.

On the Road will culminate in an **ABC Family Day** event on Saturday October 31, featuring outside broadcasts, gardening workshops with Costa and the chance to meet Jimmy Giggle and of course Macca. Everyone in Toowoomba is invited for the fun day out which includes food trucks and giveaways for kids.

ABC Managing Director Mark Scott said the national broadcaster had a commitment to all Australian communities and to telling their stories.

"Our audiences have told us they want more regional content and one way for us to do this is to send our teams to those towns and centres and ask them what's going on locally," Mr Scott said.

"Despite the technological changes that have created a global village, some of our oldest and most established communities are becoming increasingly cut-off from the national conversation, particularly as other media outlets in those regions continues to downsize. We want to meet the locals and become the eyes and ears for the rest of the nation."

In 2015 the ABC launched **ABC Regional**. The new division builds on the Corporation's commitment to rural and regional Australia in the digital era by refocussing ABC resources to ensure regional voices are heard on national platforms. **ABC Regional** brings together the Radio, Television and News divisions in creating content that reflects regional Australia.

Participating programs (all times QLD)

Monday 26th October

8:00am **AM** with Michael Brissenden
9:00am **ABC Open** 'Faces of Toowoomba' portraits street-art exhibition launches
9:00am **Life Matters** Radio National
10:00am **iView** Toowoomba stories collection launches
5:30pm **triple J Hack**
8:30pm **Q&A LIVE** – Empire Theatre, live TV broadcast

Tuesday 27th October

8:00am **AM** with Michael Brissenden
12:00pm **QLD Country Hour** – from Local Radio Southern Queensland studio
5:30pm **triple J Hack**
6:30pm **The Book Club** – Armitage Theatre, TV record

Wednesday 28th October

8:00am **AM** with Michael Brissenden
9:00am **Life Matters** Radio National
6:30pm **Compass [Moral Compass live event]** – Armitage Theatre, TV record
7:00pm **Brisbane 612 Evenings** with David Curnow – Empire Theatre, live radio broadcast

Thursday 29th October

8:00am **AM** with Michael Brissenden - program incl. Sth Qld story
9:00am **Life Matters** Radio National - program incl. story from Toowoomba
4:00pm **Qld Drive** with Rob Mailer – from Local Radio Southern Queensland studio
5:30pm **triple J Hack** - program incl. story from Toowoomba

Friday 30th October

8:00am **AM** with Michael Brissenden – from Local Radio Southern Queensland studio
10:00am **Gardening Australia** – Costa filming from Toowoomba backyards and gardens
12:00pm **Landline** – Pip Courtney shooting links in & around Toowoomba
3:34pm **Studio 3** – Queen's Park (incl. story packages shot in Toowoomba), live TV broadcast
4:00pm **Qld Drive** with Rob Mailer – Uni Queensland Gatton Campus, live radio broadcast
7:00pm **ABC News Queensland** – weather bulletin, with Jenny Woodward, live from Toowoomba

Saturday 31st October

6:00am **Weekend Breakfast** – Empire Theatre lawn, live TV broadcast
6:00am **ABC Family Day** w. ABC personalities, see TV & radio being made live – Empire Theatre lawn
9:00am **Local Radio Sth QLD weekend mornings** – Empire Theatre lawn, live radio broadcast
10:30am **Australia Wide**

Sunday 1st November

4:30am **Australia All Over** – Gatton Cultural Centre, live radio broadcast

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For more information

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