



PODCAST

Mumbrellacast: High-flyer Hugh Marks, Dentsu joins the merging lane, and Kyle strikes back

NATHAN JOLLY May 7, 2026 3:10

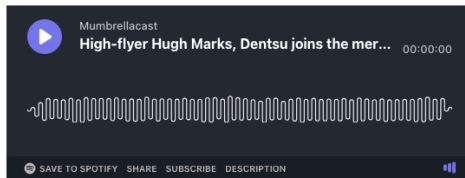


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Welcome to this week's Mumbrellacast, where Tim Burrowes joins us live from the Qantas lounge but swears he isn't compromised.

The reason we mention this is because this week, it was revealed that ABC managing director Hugh Marks has accepted a membership to the Qantas Chairman's Lounge, one of the most exclusive clubs in the country — and one where memberships are dealt out — and rescinded — by one of the biggest corporations in the country, one which has had a horror PR run since the pandemic.



We discuss why this is potentially a huge problem when it comes to the perception of the national broadcaster as an independently minded news source, and why other media outlets aren't slamming Marks for this decision, when lesser ABC scandals seem to be beaten up.

Dentsu Australia has ditched its Carat and iProspect brands and reduced its Australian operation to one brand. Why did this happen, and what does it mean in a wider sense? These aren't just rhetorical questions: we attempt to provide answers.

Now onto radio (or the 'wireless' for our older listeners; don't the kids dress weird these days?). This week, Heith Mackay-Cruise stepped down as chair of Southern Cross Media. He will be replaced by Teresa Dyson, a long-time Seven West Media board member, and a portent of the shifting power dynamics in this newly merged media company. A week or two ago, Seven's former chief operating officer Rohan Lund was named CEO and managing director, and it seems that SCA's John Kelly — who seemed to be the frontrunner for the top job — will remain as audio boss.

Stay tuned to this end of the dial, as we turn to Kyle Sandilands' defence against ARN's defence against Kyle's defence against his sacking — we've gotten hold of Kyle's Federal Court filings this week, and it might be the only legal document in the history of the courts to feature the word "arse-licker".

Kyle is somewhat throwing Jackie under the bright-pink Kiis bus,

claiming she was just as offensive on-air as he was, and contributed to the tone of the show — and that ARN's producers not only encouraged this, but actively monetised it.

Finally, Trinity P3's latest State of the Pitch report reveals that "abusive" pitching practices are becoming normalised across Australia's advertising industry — and, according to Trinity P3's CEO [Darren Woolley](#), agencies share some of the blame. Over to you, [Darren](#)...

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Nathan Jolly is the Features Editor at Mumbrella. He joined the team in July, 2023.

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**Tinfoil hats down** 8 May 26

Um guys... the Jan 1 thing with Anderson was probably just that the ABC signed or renewed their travel contract with Qantas from Jan 1 — Chairman's for the CEO is now a pretty standard perk (ergo the lack of furore).

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