



Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter February 2014

President Margaret's Message.

New Year greetings to you all.

I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and feel invigorated again for 2014.

Here we are back for another year of supporting the ABC, Australia's own very special public broadcaster.

It would seem from the comment and urgency felt by all our State Presidents and Executive, that we will be asked during this year, and possibly 2015 as well, to show both our support and strength for retaining the ABC in its current independent state. The very powerful forces behind this attack on the public broadcaster are real and will not be deterred lightly.

I strongly recommend that all members read the last Update magazine for 2013 very carefully and thoroughly. It is a particularly good issue of Update, and the articles written by so many people who are at the forefront of knowledge regarding the status quo of Aunty ABC are quite revealing, and of course very worrying.

In particular please note the article on Page 16 in Update by Quentin Dempster. You will notice he quotes from a live interview on SBS by Anton Enus with the then Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, on Friday 6th September 2013 (the day before the Federal Election). When Mr Abbott was asked about the fate of public broadcasters, both ABC and SBS under a Coalition Govt., the then Opposition Leader said, and I quote:

"I trust everyone actually listened to what Joe Hockey said last week, and again this week - No cuts to education, no cuts to health, no change in pensions, no change to the GST and no cuts to the ABC or SBS." 06/09/2013.

For anyone who thinks that this is not true, please verify the information for yourself. PM Abbott said it, as did Treasurer Hockey before him.

NEXT MEETING

WHERE: Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls

DATE: Sat, February 15th

TIME: 10:00 AM



Check out our Branch Website...

Go to: Friends of the ABC NSW

<http://www.fabcnsw.org.au>

Go to Local branches(left column) and click on 'Blue Mountains'

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Please feel free to contact any committee member to find out more about the Friends of the ABC.

Quentin in usual professional style goes on to specify what has happened in the past, and its consequences, and what may occur in the next couple of years, and why.

I also want to pass on to you that all State Leaders of FABC from around Australia will be gathering in Melbourne for 2 or 3 days in early February to plan some strategies to counteract what real threat/s may occur against the ABC and SBS in the coming months.

We will keep you informed with any news that comes to hand. We will also need a huge amount of support from all able members if the time comes to put into place any action to defend the ABC.

When a very real threat occurred previously to the ABC, under the management of Mr Jonathan Shier during the Howard / Alston years, FABC rallied and thousands of supporters packed the forecourt of the Opera House and elsewhere, vocally and forcefully. We retained that pressure until the Federal Government reassured everyone they had withdrawn the threat.

We Can Do It Again.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and /or any functions that we hold. You are all very welcome, and information about meeting times etc are elsewhere in this issue.

Margaret Foy
President BMFABC.

Since President Margaret wrote the above, I am sure you are aware that things have started to move fast. Remember the undertaking that Tony Abbott gave at the Murdoch / Rinehart funded IPA dinner a year ago? No ...

We'll make sure you come along on the 15th.

My prediction is the first thing the Government will do will be to cancel the contract with the ABC to continue to produce the Australia Network, the Television program shown in South East Asia and the Pacific, and stop production. Why? Well if you have heard Julie Bishop making very pointed comments about 'the poor quality of this production', (comments without any factual substance), then within 12 months, a program 'more sympathetic to the Government of the day' will

quietly start being broadcast by Sky. This is my personal view but watch this space, there is I believe, a lot more to come.

How many of you were surprised at the published ABC salary levels?

I personally don't have a problem with what Mark Scott receives, but a lot of the others appear to me to be quite excessive, when you consider how many people are paid less than \$70,000 per annum.

What do you think? Remember we have a 'Letters to the Editor' column. E-mail it to me or phone me if you want to post it.

On a happier note, our Christmas 2013 dinner was a very happy and jovial function. Our photographer Bonnie Tucker was busy clicking away and here is a group photo.



Many more photos on our website.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 15th, it promises to be a VERY interesting meeting and if you can, stay on for a delicious good value lunch afterwards.

Have you got your Getup '**Protect our ABC**' car bumper stickers and have you put them on your car? I hope to see lots of them on the 15th.