



Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter November 2013

Greetings to all members of the Blue Mountains Branch of The Friends of The ABC.

Hello Everyone,

Firstly, I must express on behalf of all members of the BMFABC, our empathy to any of our members, their friends and families, who may have suffered severe loss or injuries during the recent bushfires which ravaged so much of our beautiful Blue Mountains area.

It must have been the most difficult of times to suffer or witness such devastation.

Please accept our sincere commiserations. We wish everyone affected a speedy return to some sort of normality.

Where has 2013 gone? Here we are sending out the last Newsletter for the year. Don't despair; the BMFABC Newsletter will be back in February!

The BMFABC AGM will be held on Saturday 16th November at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

We are delighted to have Matt Peacock as our guest speaker after the AGM. Matt is a very highly respected senior journalist at the ABC. His investigative journalism has been at the forefront of some of the most contentious issues for over two decades.

His name became linked with James Hardie Industries because of his fearless persistence and patience in searching and subsequently exposing the irresponsible business behaviour of this company.

Matt wrote a book on the subject. "**Killer Company: James Hardie Exposed**" (HarperCollins 2009) and also the TV series *Devil's Dust* which was shown on ABC TV to excellent reviews and wide acclaim. This series also revealed the big impact that Hardie employee Bernie Banton had in exposing the horrific health and safety issues that prevailed for many years within James Hardie Industries.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear an excellent and entertaining speaker. Matt will also answer questions from the floor if time permits.

I believe we have had some response to the new addition of a LETTERS page. It will be beneficial in many ways for all

NEXT MEETING: BRANCH AGM

**WHERE: Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls**

DATE: Sat, 16th November 2013

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

members to hear your praise or otherwise of anything relating to the ABC. Love or hate her, Aunty is a very precious part of life in Australia. I cannot imagine my life without the ABC.

Lastly, I wish you and yours a very happy, contented and ABC-sated Festive Season.

See you in 2014 when our monthly meetings resume on the 3rd Saturday in February at the Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls at 10.00am.

Margaret Foy
President BMFABC

Letter to the Editor

Many months ago when I heard the ABC Newsreader announce that my favourite BBC programmes which I watched on ABC TV had been sold to the Murdoch owned TV stations around the globe, I was so shocked that I couldn't finish my breakfast ! What would I watch on TV? At the time it seemed the screen would remain black and empty.

I was stunned a few weeks later to see some excellent Australian TV Dramas and good comedy programs on the ABC. I found out that the Federal Govt had given extra funding to the ABC dedicated to new Australian TV drama. I have enjoyed great Aussie drama and comedy series recently. Such as: Redfern Now, The Time Of our Lives, Serangoon Road, Miss Fisher and many more. Of course anything Gruen or by Chris Lilley is fine by me. I think all of us who appreciate having an ABC with vision should be helping to maintain the present or increased level of funding. All the great Film and TV talent in this country should be sustainably employed. Australian productions are excellent and appreciated by the public. Please push all our politicians to ensure that this Govt adequately funds our ABC.

Name and address withheld by request.

Invitation to the FABC NSW Awards night party

You should all have received an invitation, either electronically or by mail, from Mal Hewitt to attend the annual celebration and Excellence in Broadcasting award to be held at the ABC in Ultimo on Friday November 29 starting at 6.00 pm.

As usual it is expected that there will be a contingent of Blue Mountains members joining in. Please let President Margaret know if you are planning to go so that she can coordinate the branch attendance. I suggest that for those going on the train, that the train departing Mt Victoria at 2.55 pm (Katoomba at 3.14 pm) as the most suitable.

I suggest the second carriage as the one to meet up in. Again, please contact President Margaret (contact details on P1) by the AGM ON November 16 if you are going with the group. **PLEASE BRING YOUR \$25 WITH YOU.**

Editor's Travels

As some of you will be aware, I have been 'missing in action' for the last three meetings as a result of travels firstly to Europe and the UK and then Bali. Trying to keep up with the goings on in the world again reinforced to me just how lucky we are to have such a wonderful broadcaster as the ABC.

In Europe I was usually able to access BBC World TV and in the UK, mainly BBC1. Both presented in a very professional manner but in my opinion there was not the breadth nor depth of news item presentations that we are accustomed to from our ABC. Again in my opinion, the ABC's TV Breakfast is at least one level above that of the BBC. On the odd occasion when the opportunity to watch evening TV was an option, trawling through most of the TV channels produced a lot of chat and quiz shows and a worrying lack of serious drama programs. We are just so fortunate that our ABC sources their programs from multiple sources including their own local outsourced productions.

I was on the north coast of Bali when the bushfire emergency was on and such are the marvels of modern communications via Wi-Fi and in my case a tablet, I was able to listen to 702 live and or watch News 24. Some of the European guests where I was staying were amazed that I was able to do this. I must add that at the Tejakcula resort where I was, there is no TV or radio coverage available.

As people lost their houses I got to thinking how much information they could have lost when their computers went up in smoke, and quite often, their backups. There is a way around this.

I use an automatic backup system that backs up in 'the cloud'. It costs me about \$90 for two years and is easy to access to recover your data and photos. I am happy to pass on my experiences with this system, just e-mail or phone me.

Well that's it for this month. See you at the AGM; Matt Peacock will be a fascinating speaker.