

Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter March 2013

GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BRANCH OF FRIENDS OF THE ABC

I was very encouraged by a good attendance at our first meeting for 2013 on 16th February.
A very special welcome to a new member, Lynne Tocher, and to welcome back some old friends.

It was decided to hold a "Meet the Candidates Forum" on Saturday 10th August at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls. This will be advertised closer to the date, but in the meantime please make a note in your diary as a capacity audience is essential to the success of the event.

The topic for discussion is yet to be decided. However it will be ABC focused and what each Party's policies are to retain a commercial-free, independent, well funded public broadcaster. We already have secured confirmation from a couple of candidates, and aim to have all political parties, plus Independents represented.

The Meeting also decided to form a Letter Writing committee to bombard all relevant Ministers and Agencies with letters asking for increased funding for the ABC, as suggested by State President, Mal Hewitt. Lynne Tocher, our newest member, volunteered to head this committee. Thank you Lynne.

At the February meeting we initiated a new format by dividing the meeting into two sections. The latter section being an activity or workshop to discuss various topical ideas relating to the ABC. Our secretary, Eunice Goodberg, conducted the February workshop based on a Radio National program that Geraldine Doogue presented, 'Australian Economy – A Snapshot'. A discussion paper was used by each group and healthy and vigorous opinions were summarised and presented. Eunice was great as a mediator and I thank her on behalf of all members who were present.

In March, Vice President Pam Fitzpatrick, has offered to lead an entirely different type of interactive workshop. We are very grateful to you Pam.

I am hoping this change of format will attract more members to our meetings as we gently stimulate our brains and at the same time try to understand some of the issues that face the ABC Management and staff every day. A bonus hopefully will be that we enjoy ourselves.

NEXT MEETING

WHERE: Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
DATE: Sat, 16 March 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.

On February 7th the Sydney Morning Herald printed a news item reporting that the Federal Government announced, during the Senate Inquiry into the ABC, that \$10million in extra funds would be given to top up the ABC coffers. This will enable Aunty to hire more staff and reach greater audiences in regional Australia.

Managing Director, Mark Scott said: "The ABC News team will focus on increasing the ABC's original local content, acknowledging that in a fragmented market, audiences want information from a trusted, independent source that is available to all sectors of the community". (SMH 02/03/2013)

I am sure we all agree with that statement.

Also on March 5th I received an email from Ireen Allanson from the State Committee of Friends of the ABC advising all FABC members to "delete from their emails any contacts from the group, 'Save our ABC' ".

I have asked Ireen for clarification but at the time of writing have not received a reply.

I look forward to meeting more members at our next meeting on 16th March.

Remember this will be a busy year for us, so the more members the easier the task.

Margaret Foy
President, BMFABC

STOP PRESS

Don't forget to note in your diary SATURDAY 10th AUGUST for "Meet the Candidates Forum"

URGENT REQUEST

We still require a Newsletter Editor for our monthly newsletter. Would someone please volunteer for this position.