

Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter May 2013

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

From the pen of our President.

As the year speeds into the winter months, the pace of the BMFABC has quickened. As a group we have been trying to act upon the suggestions made to each Branch by the FABC State Executive under the Leadership of Mal Hewitt, our hard working State President.

As this year is the beginning of the next triennial funding arrangement with the Federal government, it is very important that the ABC receives an increase in funding for the next 3 years. The increasing number of Radio, TV and Online services that the ABC provides to all Australians requires extra funding not just to be able to provide the service, but to increase the staffing levels to maintain high quality presentation. The ABC leads the way with the variety of "on-line" and 24 hour TV presentations it provides every day. News content is swallowed at a ferocious pace and staff are required around the clock to constantly update this cycle.

All Branches have been encouraged to approach local parliamentary members, both as individuals and as a Branch to plead the case for money for the ABC.

We have been busy with a letter writing group sending out letters to as many parliamentarians as possible on all sides of politics.

We have also had meetings with both Sen. Doug Cameron and local candidate for the ALP Susan Templeman at their Office in Springwood, and a meeting with Louise Markus is planned for next week at her Windsor office.

We have been well received, but with Treasury finances very tight, we haven't received any promises of increased funding. We can only hope.

During this week I have been very encouraged by the fact that 3 BMFABC members volunteered to take on the responsibility of Publicity and Photography, and Newsletter Editor positions. Thank you very much to Julia McGill, Bonnie Tucker and Garth Taylor. It is wonderful that we now have all Committee positions filled by competent and enthusiastic members. I feel lucky to have such a great team to work with, especially during such a vital period for the survival of the ABC as we know it. Thank you all.

We are working towards our " Meet the Candidates Forum" on the 10th August at the Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls. All

NEXT MEETING

WHERE: Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls

DATE: Sat, 18th May 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'

FABC COMMITTEE

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

the major political parties will be represented, so we are expecting a lively and interesting discussion on the future of the ABC. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY. We expect a capacity crowd to attend, and then enjoy lunch at the Grand View afterwards.

We welcome everyone at our Meetings held 3rd Saturday of each month at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls at 10.00am. We also encourage everyone to take out membership of the Friends of the ABC and to know they are doing their small bit to help maintain our great public broadcaster.
e-mail for more information to:- fabcnsw@fabcnsw.org.au

Until next time
Margaret Foy, President BMFABC

Know your ABC Board.

The Hon James Spigelman AC QC

The Honourable James Spigelman AC QC commenced his five-year term as **Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation** on 1 April 2012.

James Spigelman was the Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales from 1998 to 2011. Between 1980 and 1998 he practised as a barrister in Sydney and was appointed QC in 1986. Between 1972 and 1976 he served as Senior Adviser and Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Australia and as Permanent Secretary of the Commonwealth Government's Department of the Media. From 1976 to 1979 he was a member of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Mr Spigelman has served on the Boards and as Chair of a number of cultural and educational institutions including: Chair of the National Library of Australia between 2010 and 2012, Member of the Board of the Australian Film Finance Corporation between 1988 and 1992 (Chairman between 1990 and 1992), Member of the Board of the Art Gallery of New South Wales between 1980 and 1988 (Deputy Chairman between 1983 and 1988) and as President of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences between 1995 and 1998. He was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for services to law and to the community in bringing about changes in attitudes to the administration of justice for a more fair and equitable society, and to the support of visual arts.

Ed's comment.

I recommend Mr Spigelman to you as a real asset to the ABC and also as someone for members to contact if they feel a need to do so, not on trivial subjects, but on important things like observing the Charter and expansion of the Charter to bring it into the digital age, funding etc.

Digital Radio Coverage.

As many Upper Mountains Residents will know, digital radio coverage in this area has been largely nonexistent. However I got a pleasant surprise last week when I found I had good DAB coverage in my home in Leura. If you have a DAB radio, give it another try, you may have to move it around the house a little bit, and give us the result at the next meeting.

URGENT REQUEST

When you read suggestions put forward by the IPA (Institute of Public Affairs) about getting rid of the ABC, to ensure our ABC is in the best position to resist this possible attack, the FABC membership base needs to be increased. If every member was able to get one new member or get a lapsed member to rejoin, our base would be doubled. I sense there is every chance that we will need as many members as we can get to protect our wonderful ABC. If you are in a position to help, please do so.

Have you read the April edition of Update?

Lots of interesting articles as usual, but I would like to draw your attention to the article on **page 11** which has practical suggestions on what YOU can do to let our pollies know that you care about the ABC and its funding.

Do you have something to say but can't make the regular Saturday meeting? Send me an e-mail by the 3rd Sunday of the month and I will endeavour to put your thoughts in the next newsletter.

Well that's it folks for my first edition. A BIG thanks to Margaret, Janelle, and Eunice for a lot of help in getting this edition bedded down.

STOP PRESS

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