



Blue Mountains Branch

Friends of the ABC Newsletter

May 2014

From the pen of President Margaret.

The last 2-3 months have seen a huge increase in membership with the FABC. Our Blue Mountains branch has increased by 33% and it is similar throughout NSW and Australia.

Members are willing to show their support to retain a strong, balanced, independent ABC that is also commercial free. It is important to include SBS as well, as SBS provides programs that cover our multicultural population. SBS is unique in the world.

Despite relentless criticisms from News Ltd (Murdoch media) and many politicians, the ABC maintains balanced and unbiased news and current affairs programs every day. Every inquiry, investigation or survey done to prove bias in the way the ABC presents its programs has found NO left wing bias at all. If anything a very slight bias to the right has been identified.

Our FABC branch members walked in the Springwood Foundation Day Parade behind our banner and handed out ABC bumper stickers and colourful flyers. Thank you everyone who walked with us. While we felt reasonably happy with the response we have gathered several new ideas to improve our image and make a greater impact for the next parade.

We await the May Federal budget with trepidation. I received a prompt and lengthy reply from Louise Markus MP's secretary in response to a letter that I sent last week. I

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Sat, May 17
TIME: 10:00 AM
WHERE: Grand View Hotel,
 Wentworth Falls



Check out our Branch Website...

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

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

wrote asking for reassurance that ABC funding would not be cut in the coming budget. I was assured that there would be NO CUTS. However scrutiny of the efficiency review of ABC spending ordered by the Minister for Communications, Malcolm Turnbull would determine future funding. I hope to be able to post this correspondence on our website, (address is on page 1).

Vale: Julia McGill.

Julia was a very loyal and active member of the FABC-BM over a number of years and it was with great sadness that we learnt of her untimely death. Julia had a terminal illness that caused a great amount of discomfort and stress during her final months. Julia lived life to the full right up until the end. Many of us were privileged to share some final hours with her and several members attended her funeral service. Our sincere sympathy goes to Nick, Andrea and Amanda and their families. Julia will be sadly missed.

Margaret Foy, President.

Well as you can see, there is a lot of activity revolving around the ABC.

The tour of the ABC Ultimo Studios is on **Friday 18th July** not the 17th July as stated in the April newsletter. I have been told that numbers are filling fast so if you haven't yet booked in you will need to phone our Treasurer Bob Macadam on 4754 1620 now. If you have already booked but have yet to pay the \$25, please bring it to our next meeting.

A recent investigation into the per capita funding for public broadcasters by the Canadian based Press Progress showed that the highest funding was (in Canadian dollars, much on par with the Oz dollar) Norway at \$164, the UK came in at \$111, the average is \$87 and Australia is \$44. So based on

these figures, there is no doubt that we get wonderful value for our money from our ABC.

Given that there is a government organised efficiency review into the ABC's running costs, my mind goes back to a comment by Sir Humphrey in the wonderful BBC series, *Yes Prime Minister*, 'that governments should never have an inquiry, review or Royal Commission unless they already know what the answer will be'. Time will show.

Time for a joke.

Irish Sugar Test

One day Paddy, an Irishman, goes into a chemist shop, reaches into his pocket and takes out a small Irish whiskey bottle and a teaspoon.

He pours some liquid onto the teaspoon and offers it to the chemist, and says "Could you taste this for me, please?"

The chemist takes the teaspoon, puts it in his mouth, swills the liquid around and swallows it.

"Does that taste sweet to you?" says Paddy.

"No, not at all," says the chemist.

"Oh that's a relief," says Paddy.

"The doctor told me to come here and get my urine tested for sugar."

Don't forget our Letters to the Editor section, it is there for you.

Well that's it for another month. I hope to see you at the Grand View on Saturday May 17th.

Here is a thought, why not bring a friend.

Visitors are very welcome

GT