



# Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter April 2014

## From the pen of President Margaret.

Hello to all members, but an especially warm welcome to the many new members who have signed up to our Blue Mountains Branch of Friends of the ABC in the last few weeks. The recent increase in membership nationwide shows a growing concern by the general public about the future of the ABC, and SBS as well; their future is uncertain in the present political climate.

The constant attack on the value of our public broadcaster by the Murdoch newspapers is both vitriolic and mostly untrue. All of this creates an atmosphere of doubt in many citizens' minds: Does the ABC waste too much money? Does it cost the taxpayer far too much, especially when so much is said and written about Australia's economic crisis?

No, The ABC manages a nationwide radio broadcasting service, several TV stations, regional as well as city and an extensive on-line service. All of this includes many journalists both international and in Australia, as well as thousands of support staff. Yet the ABC manages all of these services on a smaller budget than Channel 10.

The impartiality of the ABC has been proven over and over again. There is no left-wing bias on the ABC, and yet the anti-ABC forces continually make this claim. Independent research clearly states that an even balance is strictly adhered to within all ABC programs.

## NEXT MEETING

**WHERE:** No meeting this month

**DATE:** due to Easter

**TIME:**



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

Please refer to:

CRIKEY April 1<sup>st</sup>

1. Andrea Willis, re the ABC coverage of the 2013 elections - no bias - if anything slightly to the right.
2. Gerald Stone, re ABC coverage of Asylum Seekers - fair and balanced.

Good listening and viewing on Our ABC.

Margaret Foy,  
President BM-FABC.

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By the time you read this our branch will have taken part in the annual march at Springwood Foundation Day, just another way of advertising our branch. It is so important that our branch of the FABC is promoted widely to the general population so that they know we exist.

I was 'missing in action' from our March meeting so I missed all the new faces stepping up to fill various posts.

The secretary's role has been split with Libby Blackburn becoming the Correspondence Secretary and Haidee Roper the Minutes Secretary. Welcome and thank you ladies.

Have you seen our new website? This is the work of our new webmaster Tony Young. Personally I think it is a level above the new National website which is a big improvement over the old one. Thank you Tony.

The new Blue Mountains branch website address is: <http://www.fabcnswbm.org.au>  
For those of you receiving this newsletter electronically, click on the above link now and be amazed.

### Tour of the ABC Ultimo Studios.

A branch visit has been organised for July 17 where the attendees will also be part of the taping of Jennifer Byrne's First Tuesday Book Club. We have to be at Ultimo by 0950 for the tour starting at 1000 and the taping of Jennifer's show starts at 1300 (1.00pm in old money). If you are planning to go by train, catch the one leaving Katoomba 0724.

Cost is just \$10 and we are limited to 25, so get your registration in now to our Treasurer. You can e-mail this to him, details on page 1 and pay him cash at the May branch meeting or post your details to:

Bob Macadam  
34 Lee Road,  
Winmalee NSW 2777

If you are paying by cheque please make it out to 'Friends of the ABC Blue Mountains'.

Comment has been received from a member, (but not directly to me), about 'unsigned' Letters to the Editor. I know who the member is but as her concern was expressed to another committee member, I have withheld her name out of respect for her privacy.

My personal view is that if a member wants to remain anonymous for whatever reason, providing I know who it is I am happy to accept this. I will not however accept abusive or attacking letters.

Well that's it for another month. I hope you have a very happy Easter.

Our May meeting will be at the Grand View on Saturday May 17.

GT