



Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter August 2014

From the pen of President Margaret.

Our branch activities continued in July with a very happy tour of the ABC Studios in Ultimo, combined with two recording sessions of Jennifer Byrne's *First Tuesday Book Club*. It was both an enlightening and informative day and enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Helen Routledge who did all the preliminary contacts to ensure a successful day.

The Biennial State Conference of FABC is being held in the Blue Mountains this year at the Mountain Heritage Resort and Spa in Katoomba.

Our branch is hosting this important event and we are excited by the level of interest being shown by members, and some "would-be" members, in attending one or both days of the Conference.

For anyone still contemplating attending the Conference there are still some vacancies. However you will need to be quick to ensure confirmation.

We are very happy to have the Managing Director of the ABC Mark Scott attending on the Sunday morning. We look forward to his address and the question time that is to follow. Mark Scott has huge demands on his time, especially at this particular juncture with all the threats and counter threats emanating from Canberra. He is making an extremely strong case for retaining the ABC as a fully independent and non-commercial broadcaster.

For Conference details and how to book your

NEXT MEETING

No meeting this month, replaced by the State Conference at Katoomba's Mountain Heritage Hotel over August 16 & 17.



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.

place, please refer elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Conference program is shaping up to be both interesting and informative. The Conference will reveal facts and figures, and act as a compass to show the best way ahead for FABC members.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 16th and 17th August at the Mountain Heritage.

I would like to mention the mail-outs that I forward to members regularly. I know sometimes that some of you feel overwhelmed with all the information.

My intention is to keep every one of you as informed as possible about our branch news, but also the latest news from all over the country in relation to the ABC.

Please try and persevere with mail-outs, and keep informed about our national broadcaster. Learn how you, as an individual, can do your bit to help stop any threat to the independence of our great ABC.

The aim is the same nationwide. A democratic country must retain a public broadcaster.

Margaret Foy
Pres. FABC BM

If you have yet to book in for the conference on the 16th and 17th and you have lost the info previously sent out by President Margaret, here it is again.

By direct bank transfer to:-
BSB 802 084, A/C No 732260.
Payee is: Friends of the ABC Inc.
Reference: Your name.

Cost: Sat \$120, Sun \$60, both days \$180
NOTE: For catering purposes PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE, **payment on the day is NOT possible.**

If you have to send a cheque please post to:-

**The Treasurer, FABC,
34 Lee Road,
WINMALEE, NSW 2777**

At our last monthly meeting there was discussion around the idea of using Facebook as another excellent way of spreading the word on the trials and tribulations of OUR ABC. However a quick check of the members present at that meeting revealed that not very many were users of Facebook. Given the 'horror stories' often told about the problems young people get into with their public bare all attitude to Facebook, this is very understandable. However it doesn't have to be this way and privacy settings are available and easy to use.

I am a very late convert to Facebook, I resisted it vigorously for years, but I now happily embrace it.

Webmaster Tony has set up a new branch Facebook page, go and have a look at:

<https://www.facebook.com/fabcnswbm>

There you will see a number of articles on Our ABC which can very easily be shared with your Facebook friends. For example the third story (Post) on whether there is a left wing bias at the ABC is a very well balanced article. I was able to send a copy to all my Facebook friends by just clicking on the 'Share' button and writing a short intro and just sending it off. Hopefully some of them will share it with their friends, many of whom are currently not Friends of the ABC. In such a way information can be disseminated quickly and widely. Joining is easy, just go to www.facebook.com and follow the prompts. If you are still unsure I will have some more info on this next month.

Next general meeting, September 20th at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.
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