



Blue Mountains Branch Friends of the ABC Newsletter September 2014

A BIG thank you to Eunice Goodberg for offering to be guest editor for this edition while I am in South Africa. GT
From the pen of President Margaret.

Springtime Greetings

Right now, I am still slightly euphoric after the NSW State Conference of the ABC Friends which our branch hosted on 16/17th August 2014.

The venue was the lovely Mountain Heritage Resort and Spa in Katoomba. It was a very popular choice, the delegates loved it, and the staff looked after all our needs cheerfully and efficiently.

The conference had a very busy agenda, held together with Mal Hewitt's usual style, humour and professional approach.

Mal Hewitt, State President of ABC Friends, planned the conference based on the crisis threatening the ABC (and SBS).



Mal Hewitt with Quentin Dempster

Quentin Dempster gave an impassioned speech on the effects that so many redundancies and financial cuts have had on the existing ABC staff.

Quentin emphasised the vital role a public broadcaster such as the ABC plays in the daily lives of its citizens, the young, the old, the fit and the frail, the minorities of all persuasions and crises great and small.

NEXT MEETING

WHERE: Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
DATE: Sat, September 20
TIME: 10:00 AM



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.

Fair and balanced, the ABC can only operate as an independent broadcaster, IF it doesn't have to rely on financial security from advertisers who would demand certain outcomes, with bias, according to their Business Profile.

Quentin also reminded us of the effectiveness of ABC Friends constantly letter writing and door knocking politicians and newspapers.

As usual, Susan Templeman and Bob Debus spoke knowledgeably about the ABC, its detractors, and the unique place the ABC holds in the Australian way of life. They both recommended the saturation of politicians with "Don't Disband the ABC" tactics. Susan was adamant that a simple, but relevant message, repeatedly sent to the appropriate people was most likely to succeed.



Dr Richard Gates, Bob Debus and Susan Templeman

Mal Hewitt introduced the Victorian President and National Spokesperson for the ABC Friends, Glenys Stradijot who spoke about her role and the way she envisages the "Friends" should proceed into the future. She too, repeated the message of 'completely overwhelming' politicians and papers by our demands to retain a strong ABC.

We were honoured to have the Managing Director of the ABC, Mark Scott address us on the Sunday morning. His talk was to reassure us on the advanced plans he and other managers at the ABC have in place to survive the onset of more financial cuts in spending, causing more structural change. He mentioned that it is imperative to attract much larger numbers of younger audiences. The demographic of ABC audiences shows that the ABC has the largest following of older people.



Managing Director ABC Mark Scott

All delegates left with much to think about, and plans to invigorate their branches.

Our Blue Mountains Branch is already doing some of the suggested strategies but we must build on that and keep up the pressure where it counts.

My heartfelt thanks to both Libby Blackburn and Tony Young who backed me all the way and were 100% reliable at all times. Their work made the conference professional, and "in style". Also a very new member, Ron Fuller did an excellent job all weekend recording the two days of the conference.



BM Pres. Margaret Foy with Ron Fuller

Margaret Foy
Pres. ABC Friends BM

REMINDER

The next branch meeting is on 20 September, 10.00 a.m. at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

Friends Annual Dinner

This is a reminder about the ABC Friends Annual Dinner. The function is almost fully booked. Our branch has already booked one full table.

If you would like to attend and hear Margaret Throsby bookings need to be made ASAP. All the information is set out below.

It is usually one of the highlights of the year. Our members usually catch the train, as the restaurant is within walking distance of Town Hall station.

Come and join the Friends for our ANNUAL DINNER in the majestic surrounding of the famous CELLO'S RESTAURANT in the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

This year our guest speaker is MARGARET THROSBY, a face and voice familiar Australia-wide, and one of the ABC's most popular and admired broadcasters.

Her highly successful career encompasses both radio and television. Margaret was the recent winner of the FABC NSW Award for Broadcasting Excellence and in 1989 was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (for Services to Broadcasting). As guest speaker Margaret will reflect on her almost 50-year career with the ABC.

Read more about Margaret Throsby here -

<http://www.abc.net.au/classic/program/midday/presenter/>

DATE: Friday 19th September 2014

TIME: Doors open 6:30 sit down 7pm

COST: \$70 per person including two drinks. Payment by cheque or credit card when you phone to book.

BOOKINGS: MUST be made via telephone to Joy 9502 2335, Ireen 9745 4487 or Ivy 9981 7940 (if unanswered please leave a message).

Numbers attending are limited, so don't delay. Last bookings taken if not already filled, 8:30pm Sunday 14th September. Members may also invite non-members.

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE CONFERENCE



ABC Friends delegates



Mal Hewitt and Victorian President and National Spokesperson for ABCFriends, Glenys Stradijot



Angela Williamson (NSW Membership Secretary), Libby Blackburn, Tony Young and Margaret Foy