

### From the pen of President Margaret.

October commenced with great passion and enthusiasm. Ten members from Blue Mountains Friends made an early start on 1<sup>st</sup> October to join a hastily organised rally protesting against funding cuts to the ABC which would result in the axing of quality programs such as Lateline, State 7.30, Science and corresponding staff. The rally was held at the back entrance to the ABC Harris Street studios and involved several hundred people. Quentin Dempster and Jonathan Holmes spoke, together with CPSU representatives and others. *GetUp* organised a petition with 57,000 signatures and Jonathan Holmes tried to present this to the ABC Board who were meeting at the Ultimo offices that day. On this he was unsuccessful with the Board refusing to send one of their members out to receive it. However a staff member accepted the petition and assured Jonathan that the Board would receive it at the end of their meeting. The Board members also declined an invitation to speak with the protestors. The rally received good press coverage, which was also picked up overseas.



### NEXT MEETING: AGM

**WHERE:** Grand View Hotel,  
Wentworth Falls

**DATE:** Sat, November 15

**TIME:** 10:00 AM

### Check out our Branch Website...

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

### ABC Friends Committee

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

**The Managing Director of the ABC**, Mark Scott, gave a very impassioned speech at Melbourne University a couple of weeks ago, defending the role of the ABC and deploring the effect that diminishing funding causes on diversity, quality and nationwide coverage of the public broadcaster. Please try to find a few moments to either phone the ABC, 8333 1500, ask for Mr Scott's office and offer congratulations on his speech ..... OR..... write a short letter C/- ABC Studios, Harris St, Ultimo 2007, to both congratulate and encourage Mr Scott to keep up the good work defending the ABC.

**ABC Friends badges** are available and we encourage members and anyone else interested in saving the ABC to wear the badges - start a conversation – sell another badge – gold coin donation.

Hazelbrook member Helen Routledge has done a wonderful job distributing badges wherever she goes. Helen has also had permission to install baskets of badges in Professional Rooms etc in her village. We are all able to spread the news of Government threats to our ABC. Please do it any way that is comfortable for you.

As I intend to resign my position as President at the AGM this will be my last message in the newsletter. I am not disappearing altogether; I will still be fighting for the ABC. I have loved every minute as President and wish to thank everyone for all the help and support that I have received over the last few years. It is vital that we keep protesting about very serious threats to the independence of our ABC.

Have a happy holiday season and let us do even better in 2015.

Margaret Foy, President.

With Margaret deciding not to continue in the President's role I would like to record my personal thanks to Margaret for all her help and guidance to me since I took on the role of newsletter editor.

**Our next meeting** starts at 10.00 am with the AGM and is followed at 11.00 am with Russell Stapleton, a very well known and regarded producer from Radio National in conversation with retired ABC staff and BM Friends member Ron Fuller. Russell and Ron will be talking about the diversity of the RN programs and challenges associated with getting the programs to air. Guests are very welcome and in line with our previous guest speaker meetings, there will be a charge of \$5 per person.

**Our end of year dinner** will be at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of December. With their two for one meal deal this is excellent value, so put it into your diary and come along for a most enjoyable night of convivial company.

**RSVP** to Libby on 4757 1586 or Margaret on 4784 1139 **by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

