

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and ABC Friends,

I am humbled and pleased to have your confidence to allow me to take over from Margaret Foy as your President for 2015 of the Blue Mountains branch of ABC Friends and I thank you all for your anticipated support. I will in return serve you and our ABC Friends branch to the best of my ability to defend the ABC against the current Coalition Government's Budget Cuts to compromise both the ABC independence and reduced funding that will result in cuts to services, broadcasts and programs from OUR ABC.

Over a lunch meeting with our Immediate Past President, Margaret Foy, we discussed the past practices, policies and procedures of the ABC Friends, Blue Mountains Branch that will remain in place and the protocols of membership with the NSW/ACT ABC Friends Head Office.

Margaret's broad experience and knowledge will prove valuable to our 2015 success. My personal congratulations go to Margaret for her dedication and hard work as President.

My ongoing concerns are for the continuing cost cutting, casting off of experienced staff and loss or rescheduling of popular program activities that have all but disappeared from public awareness due to more newsworthy events in the print and broadcast media. We must continue our letter writing campaign to magazines and newspapers and politicians as a matter of urgency. Please volunteer to be part of the "letter writer's team".

It is essential to keep the public involved and aware of the dismantling of the ABC. We must "MAINTAIN OUR RAGE" and keep everybody informed and aware of the cuts and the disastrous demolition of OUR ABC that is

Next meeting

Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday February 21, 10:00am

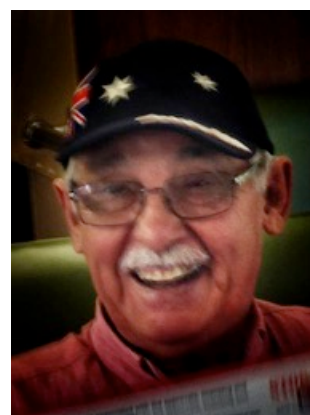
continuing without comment. In the media there have been a number of significant and popular programs affected along with proposed imminent increased commercial advertising on SBS and cuts to country and regional broadcasts!

THERE WILL BE MORE!

I offer my congratulations to your recently elected Committee who has already met to review our 2014 activities and events and consider our activities for 2015. We need your ideas and suggestions to review meeting content and events to include in the 2015 Events Register.

I look forward to working together with you all as a team to achieve the best results possible for Our ABC in 2015.

Happy ABC Listening and Viewing
Barry Redshaw
President



Annual ABC Friends Award Night

A few of our members attended a more somber award night than usual due to the Award being shared by two outstanding veteran ABC journalists, Sean Dorney and Jim Middleton who are now no longer with the ABC as a consequence of the funding cuts.

Sydney Rally for ABC November 22, 2014

Our Stories. Our Future. Our ABC

Some eighteen members from our branch joined thousands at the rally at Town Hall Square on November 22, 2014 to protest about funding cuts to the ABC.

Speakers included Quentin Dempster (now former ABC presenter), Tanya Plibersek, Scott Ludlum, Patricia Amphlett (Little Patti to most of us), Geoff Morrell and union leaders.



Our own President Barry with his wife Bev



Greens Senator, Scott Ludlum



A section of the crowd



Little Patti, Tanya Plibersek, Quentin Dempster and Scott Ludlum

AGM November 15, 2014

On behalf of the committee and members, we would like to express our sincere thanks to outgoing President, Margaret Foy and Vice President Alison Burnard. Margaret's drive, dedication and passion for the ABC and our branch has been inspirational to say the least. Alison did a wonderful job in her support role to the President as well as stepping up to do an excellent job chairing the AGM.

The new committee was elected. See panel below.

After the AGM, we were treated to a terrific talk by our guest Russell Stapleton from Radio National. This was followed by the discussion/Q&A involving Russell, our other guest Ron Fuller (as interviewer/mediator) and the audience.

We were given a real insight into the behind the scenes production of radio programs.

We are extremely grateful to Russell and Ron for giving up their valuable time and sharing their expertise.



ABC Friends End of Year Celebration

Our end of year celebration was held at The Grand View Hotel in December.

Blue Mountains members had put in a lot of effort throughout the year to protest the blatant destruction of our national broadcaster by the current government and the ABC management, so it was good to relax at our end of year celebration.

Twenty seven of our members attended a night which was great fun and enjoyed by all.



Our members enjoying the night



New Committee 2015

Tony Young, Libby Blackburn, Haidee Roper, Eunice Goodberg, Bob Macadam, Barry Redshaw, Garth Taylor, Jan O'Leary. Absent was Janelle Clark

Blue Mountains members attend Canberra Rally

Incoming Blue Mountains branch president, Barry Redshaw and his wife Bev, in addition to attending the *Our Stories. Our Future. Our ABC* rally in Sydney, attended the Canberra rally on November 25. Speakers including Bill Shorten, Scott Ludlam, Nick Xenophon and people from the ABC and unions addressed a crowd of around 300 people.



"Our Blue Ties Tell Lies placard was photographed and filmed with a shot on Lateline. We were asked if we would donate our placard to the National Library Archives, so of course we did".

Until next month... au revoir

Committee

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For membership enquiries or changes, please contact the Membership Secretary .

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