

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and ABC Friends,

A morning of low cloud and sometimes rain identified by some as "perfect mountain weather" greeted us for our March meeting and probably prevented us reaching our 30+ numbers of our February meeting with just 14 taking on the elements. Cold outside warm inside we explored the ABC/SBS programs and trends. Our new Minute Secretary's friendly agenda worked well with all business completed by midday. Some refinements are needed, in particular my wanderings from the agenda despite my own Peta C. holding my hand.

In response to questions from Members, Mal Hewitt has confirmed that the ABC School Programs, Behind the News and Music Programs are no longer broadcast but are available online if teachers choose to include them. Play School (which is pre-School) continues to be broadcast.

While lunch orders were warming up your Committee met briefly to discuss several items and all were resolved with Helen Routledge and Bev Redshaw confirmed as new Committee Members. Under a recent S.M.H. headline "Peppa Pig is the future of ABC TV" – Managing Director Mark Scott by explanation confirmed that audience habits are shifting to a world of content and demand. More than 70 percent of ABC iView traffic comes via mobile services, 16 percent from the ABC website and just 14 percent by connected TV and the ABC's audience was aggressively taking to streaming. So that we can, if we wish, change our viewing habits and ways in which we use the ABC programs viewing or listening.

Next meeting

**Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday April 18, 9:30am**

ABC Blue Mountains Friends are considering hosting a workshop later in the year on:

"How, What, When and Why"

The Use of New Technology Services and Devices

What do you think of this idea? It could be for ABC Friends Branch Members or open to public participation as a fund raiser event? Would you consider being part of a sub-committee to review and plan an event? Please email our branch Events Coordinator Garth Taylor gartht@aapt.net.au for information or expression of interest. We have decided to participate in "The Winter Magic 2015 Festival" and we need your support on the day.

Our letter writing group still needs help with writers to take up issues and respond with letters for the group. We need you to step up to write letters to politicians or other target groups or individuals.

Thanks for your support and I look forward to meeting with you on April 18 at a special one off time of 9.30am as we have to vacate the room no later than 11.30am.

Barry Redshaw

P.S. Hope you didn't miss Shaun Micallef's "Mad as Hell" that revealed the New Malcolm Turnbull after his "Maintenance and Makeover". Very refreshing and revealing the real Malcolm!



SPRINGWOOD FOUNDATION DAY MARCH 14 2015

Our branch was represented in the parade this year by a very small but enthusiastic group of members including the NSW president, Mal Hewitt and branch president, Barry Redshaw.

Making Australia Great – Inside Our Longest Boom. ABC Tuesday 8.30pm. Three part series from 17 March 2015.

This documentary by author and journalist George Megalogenis looked at the past 50 years of economic and social history through the testimonies of the prime ministers, treasurers and Reserve Bank insiders.

The series was made more interesting with the recent death of our 22nd Prime Minister John Malcolm Fraser on 20 March 2015.

Malcolm Fraser is being remembered as Australia's most divisive leader for orchestrating the Whitlam dismissal, (although they reconciled in the 1990s becoming friends and sharing a deep mutual respect on many issues) and our most humanitarian for ushering in Aboriginal land rights, encouraging immigration and multiculturalism and launching SBS. He welcomed over 50,000 Vietnamese refugees (the first boat people) and pressured Commonwealth nations for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa.

The ABC also broadcast, 'Life Wasn't Meant To Be Easy', a memorial tribute to Malcolm Fraser in one of his final major interviews conducted by George Megalogenis on Sunday 22 March.

If you didn't get around to watching these programs you can catch up on ABC iView.

COMING EVENT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THOSE CONCERNED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

H.V Evatt Memorial Dinner 2015

Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Street, Katoomba

Guest Speaker: Prof. Lesley Hughes.

Topic: Not just polar bears: Climate change as a social justice issue.

FLYER/BOOKING FORM ATTACHED For ABC Friends

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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.