

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and ABC Friends.

As we approach the 2015/16 Federal Budget in just a few weeks, concerns that the ABC will again come under fire as a target for more funding cuts and cost savings that will further reduce the efficiency and programming of its vital role as Australia's Independent National Broadcaster are expected. There can be no better evidence of the essential service provided by ABC television and radio than the information, warnings and advice during the recent floods and weather events threatening us all. We can only look and listen from the sidelines through the rising cigar smoke haze over the Treasury while the very future of our beloved ABC is savagely dealt with.

We have heard earlier and first hand from the ABC Managing Director, Mark Scott that the future of the ABC is with the younger generations and the changing trends in delivery and receiving transmitted content. Just take a ride on the Blue Mountains Intercity train to see how the younger generation is using hand held devices to confirm the trend. I am afraid that unless we don't familiarise ourselves and not learn the intricacies of the devices, the older generation will eventually lose access to OUR ABC as we know it today as it changes and loses its content and values.

It has recently been brought to my attention by Helen Routledge that Save Our SBS supporters and Friends of Our SBS are not for profit incorporated associations led by Margaret Pomeranz and Quentin Dempster and whose members appreciate the unique and important roll which SBS plays that has reflected and enriched Australia's Multicultural Society. It sounds very much like the ABC Friends, doesn't it? I am investigating further as an organisation how we can become involved, meanwhile, please wish and pray that the ABC will not be further diminished by a bullying Budget.

Next meeting

**Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday May 16, 10:00am**

At the last Meeting we realised that the June 20 regular Meeting date clashed with the Winter Magic Festival where we will participate and present OUR ABC display booth. All members are invited to come along and support the ABC FRIENDS. As a result we decided to cancel the June Meeting.

I recently had some success in having a Letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald published that you can view on our Website www.fabcnswbm.org.au

Barry Redshaw

President



Renowned local photographer Gary P Hayes captures the famous Hanging Rock near Baltzer Ridge at Blackheath.

Update Magazine - May 2015 – A Must Read

There are many informative and important articles in the May 2015 Update Magazine.

A new Friends Action Committee has been formed with the objectives to run a National Campaign in defence of the ABC, establishing a National Fighting Fund, increasing the Friends Membership and lobbying politicians. Ranald Macdonald from the Victorian ABC Friends is the co-coordinator of the Friends Action Committee.

The campaign will be launched this month and all current members will be urged to help fight to save the ABC.

Articles also from our State President, Mal Hewitt, veteran ABC broadcasters, Tim Bowden and Quentin Dempster, and Richard Gates, past President of the Northern Rivers Branch.

Members should have received their copy by now. Please try to read it.

Our very own Susan Lamont has written a letter to Federal Nationals MPs and Senators, regarding the ABC and SBS funding cuts.

The entire letter can be found on The ABC Friends Blue Mountains Website <http://www.fabcnswbm.org.au> and there is also a copy in the May 2015 Update Magazine.

Here is an excerpt;

"I must say that I am surprised and very disappointed that the Nationals have not been more vocal in opposing the large cuts that have already been announced, particularly in relation to the ABC. Considering that the Nationals profess to be 'the party for regional Australia' I would have thought that opposing substantial cuts to ABC funding would (should) be a major activity for the Nationals. The loss of ABC jobs in regional areas should also be of significant concern to the Nationals."

The branch needs more letter writers. Please get in touch if you can help.

Don't forget if you miss a program on ABC TV you can catch it on iview.

Latest documentaries include:

The Secret World of Lewis Carroll

The Super-Rich and Us

You can also podcast programs to listen to (with earphones when travelling in the quiet carriage). Makes the trip to Sydney fly by.

A suggestion is "**Big Ideas**" with Paul Barclay.

Try the **Manning Clark Lecture 2015 with Richard Denniss**, author of 'Affluenza : When Too Much is Never Enough. An Introduction to Australian Public Policy : Theory and Practice'

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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.