

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and ABC Friends.

As the smoke clears from the 2015/16 "Have a Go Federal Budget" that I have renamed "Have to Go Budget" we can now see the unfriendly, unfair and frustrating plans for the coming year unless you are mates or buddies of the masterminds of this Federal Budget.

We will need to read between the lines to realise that it is all a smokescreen! The cuts to the ABC in the 2014/15 Budget are still there and still being implemented despite this week's media report by the ABC Managing Director, "ABC Cuts Now Made". Mark Scott said "more than half of the projected 400 redundancies have been already made" with no mention of the many millions of dollars already paid out in redundancy packages (so much for unbudgeted cost savings). Remember the infamous Lewis Report has not been implemented as yet which will please and encourage the "Media Mogul Bully, Murdoch" who must be licking his lips in anticipation to privatise our ABC.

There appear to be changes ahead at the top of the ABC with the media report that Managing Director, Mark Scott will finish his current term midyear. The Communication Minister, Malcolm Turnbull MP is considering appointing David Thodey the outgoing head of Telstra. He would join the Abbott Government's first appointee to the ABC board, Peter Lewis, the former Chief Financial Officer of a commercial media outlet and who conducted a review to cut funding to the ABC. It appears that the Coalition Government is appointing people with the qualifications to transform Australia's foremost cultural institution into a commercial operation.

Meanwhile let us keep up the pressure to maintain the rage to Save Our ABC NOW!

Next meeting

**Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday July 18, 10:00am**

Don't forget there will be no ABC Friends Blue Mountains Branch Meeting in June due to our participation in the Katoomba Winter Magic Festival on June 20. Our next General Meeting ABC Friends will be on July 18, 2015 at 10.am. at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

See you at the Winter Magic Festival to join in the Parade with the ABC Friends.

Barry Redshaw

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Sales and Alberici Attacked

ABC presenter Leigh Sales has defended her budget night interview with Treasurer Joe Hockey after Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull said a "less aggressive" style of interviewing would be more effective.

In a Sunday appearance on The Bolt Report, hosted by conservative columnist Andrew Bolt, Mr Turnbull said budget interviews by Sales and Lateline host Emma Alberici were "very aggressive" and recommended journalists take a "more forensic" approach.

"He's free to have an opinion on whether he thought the interview was aggressive, but it won't change the way I do interviews," Sales told Fairfax Media.

Sales said her budget week interviews with Mr. Hockey and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten were both "pretty standard political interviews".

"Go back and have a look at my budget interviews when Wayne Swan was treasurer or with Julia Gillard or with Kevin Rudd during the election campaign or Tony Abbott about BHP," she said.

SMH 15 May, 2015

Winter Magic Festival - June 20, 2015

Our plans for the Katoomba Winter Magic Festival on Saturday June 20 are progressing but we still need your support by participating in the Parade with us! This is a great opportunity to make the Blue Mountains residents aware of the cuts and the effects on our ABC and its future. We will be again part of the celebration that last year attracted more than 20,000 visitors and for the first time having an information booth in the main street with help from those who cannot parade. I ask and hope that you, family members or friends can make a special effort to join us and swell the numbers to make our Mountain Friends aware of the urgency at an event you just can't miss. We will send out final details of time and meeting place when confirmed.

Barry R.

Sydney Writers Festival 2015

If you missed this year's SWF it is not too late to listen and enjoy conversations with some well known, not so well known and new writers who offer insight and inspiration.

On the ABC website, select RN and search for Sydney Writers Festival 2015. You can download the audio or listen to some of the following:

Man Booker Prize-winner Ben Okri in conversation about his latest novel in seven years, *The Age of Magic*.

Sydney born, New York based writer Steve Toltz had huge success with his debut novel, Man Booker shortlisted novel, *A Fraction of the Whole*. His much anticipated new novel is *Quicksand*.

Mohsin Hamid, author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, in conversation talking life, politics, art and fiction.

Join Michael Cathcart and four extraordinary writers—Amit Chaudhuri, English-Australian writer Evie Wyld and fantasy novelist Garth Nix.

Anthony Horowitz is an award-winning writer of books, television shows, films and plays. He created the hugely popular television program *Foyle's War*

Q & A and ABC Friends Blue Mountains

We are organising an evening at the Sydney Opera House to attend the live to air Q & A program on the 7th September, 2015. The topic for the night is "Dangerous Ideas." There will be a bus from Springwood Station car park leaving at around 7.p.m. Registration is required with the ABC a few weeks before the event. I suggest that we could carpool from each village to Springwood. Please contact our Committee Organiser Helen Routledge for details and bookings. maihelen77@gmail.com

We have booked 30 places on the bus and would like to fill them so please ring early to get a seat.

Barrv R.

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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.