

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and ABC Friends

Just 3 more monthly meetings before our 2015 AGM in November.

Not a month goes by without devastating news about our ABC and SBS of cost cutting, staff resignations and rumours. The recent announcement of the closure of ABC shops due to small profit margins is disappointing and frustrating. I always thought that the ABC/SBS were a service as a not for profit business, but silly me! Better management is the key to better business and funding cuts are the result of alleged inefficiency and bad government decisions. I do hope that better management can at least retain the ABC shop at the Ultimo Headquarters to support visitors in the future. There is a great media article "10 things we will miss about the ABC shops" by Andrew P. Street online that tells it all. It features a terrific photograph of our B1 and B2 and our very own "Malcolm in the Middle".

We were fortunate to have Mal Hewitt and his delightful boys to give us a detailed update of the National ABCF Adelaide Conference where plans were agreed for a National Campaign for the 2016 Federal Election and the launch of a Fundraising and Membership Campaign.

Our Committee is meeting this month to review our 2015 year and consider plans for the future. If you have any ideas, comments or matters of concern please contact me on president@fabcnswbm.org.au for inclusion in the Committee Agenda.

Next meeting

Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday August 15, 10:00am

Finally, don't forget our visit to Sydney Opera House on August 31st for a live to air Q & A program with the topic "DANGEROUS IDEAS". You can contact Helen Routledge for all enquiries and bookings mai'helen77@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you at our August 15th Meeting at the Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls at 10.am.

Thanks for your support.

Barry Redshaw

Closure of ABC Shops



We are told that the closure of ABC Shops has been a result of digital trends, that we now buy our DVDs and CDs online. There are 50 ABC Shops in just about every major mall across Australia. By the end of the year all will be gone along with the loss of 300 jobs. To regular customers, ABC Shops *are* the ABC, and the staff will tell you that they're constantly fielding enquiries, comments and occasionally brickbats about programming, transmission and all other aspects of what the national broadcaster does.

ABC, BBC and the future of public service media

If one didn't know better, one might think that right-of-centre governments in both Australia and the United Kingdom are working in lockstep to undermine the long-established and hugely popular public service media institutions over which they have been given (temporary) custodianship.

They have both been active in questioning the continuing viability and sustainability of core public service media principles. These are principles which are generally acknowledged to have done by their respective audiences quite well for nearly a century, and to have made both countries' public service media systems the envy of the world, but are now alleged to be no longer fit for purpose.

In Australia, as in the UK – and again, one might be forgiven for thinking it more than serendipitous that the issue is so high on the news agenda in both countries right now – the debate is enmeshed with the decades-long anti-public service campaigning of the News Corporation presses. Distinguished broadcasters such as Jonathan Dimbleby have warned that, with a Conservative government now in sole control of government, private media interests – the Murdoch empire in particular – [are out to “destroy the BBC”](#).

But the sensible, informed debate which we seek on the future of public service media risks being drowned out by the sound of anti-public service media governments and their media allies in both countries seizing their moment to do what even Margaret Thatcher failed to achieve – that is, reduce our great public service media institutions to docile, market failure shadows of their former excellence which provided worthy fare to those who couldn't afford to pay Rupert and his family \$1200 a year for a basic subscription package.

Read more of this article in The Conversation, Brian McNair, 20 July 2015

Excerpt of a letter by Bob Macadam, our Treasurer, recently published in the Blue Mountains Gazette.

'Elements within the Abbott Government are at war with the ABC, as evidenced by the current stouch over the Q&A program. Staunch allies include the Murdoch Press and shock jocks of the Alan Jones and Ray Hadley ilk. They believe they are on the right side (pardon the pun)....'

Read the full letter on the ABC Friends Blue Mountains website:
www.fabcnswbm.org.au

Committee

President

Barry Redshaw
president@fabcnswbm.org.au

Vice President

Garth Taylor
gartht@aapt.net.au

Secretary

Libby Blackburn
secretary@fabcnswbm.org.au

Minutes Secretary

Haidee Roper
secretary@fabcnswbm.org.au

Treasurer

Bob Macadam
robert@macadamr.com.au

Membership Secretary

Janelle Clark
janelleclark@iinet.net.au

Webmaster

Tony Young
web@fabcnswbm.org.au

Newsletter Editor

Eunice Goodberg
egoodberg@yahoo.com

Branch Photographer

Jan O'Leary

Branch Website

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

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.