

## From the President's Desk

### *ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines*

Hello Members and Friends,

We continue our efforts to remind Blue Mountains residents, many of whom have no idea that anything is wrong at the ABC and those who believe that the Government gives far too much money to the ABC and why can't the ABC support itself? It seems amazing that so many people still claim they know nothing about the ABC and the perilous attacks threatening its very existence. Our Branch is embarking on a "Grass Roots Campaign" to inform and generate public awareness and encourage new members to join the ABCFBM Branch (see Upcoming Events for more details).

Both Bev and I will be attending the NSW AGM on 26 September in Sydney. All members are welcome.

We have another presentation lined up for our October meeting (see upcoming events for details).

A small contingent of our members attended the Martin Place Trans Pacific Agreement (TPP) Rally. The TPP is currently being secretly discussed and could affect the ABC despite recent statements to the contrary. A small ABC Placard with "SAVE OUR ABC" and "STOP THE CHOP" messages attracted interest and requests for more information.

Thanks to Helen Routledge our members of our Branch attended a ABC Q&A program at the Sydney Opera House, which will be discussed at our next Meeting.

Our 2015 AGM is on Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup> and several Committee Members will not seek re-election in key roles. This will create several vacancies and if you wish to come on board please contact me to express your interest and seek information.

*Barry Redshaw*  
President ABCFBM



## Next meeting

**Grand View Hotel,**  
Wentworth Falls

Saturday September 19, 10:00am

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Branch Meeting, 19 September 2015**

Phil Greenidge, our Campaign Coordinator, (read, secret weapon) has put together a presentation to be shown at various interest/community groups and organisations to raise awareness of the issues facing our beloved ABC. We urge our members to come to a preview at the meeting and show your support.

### **ABC Friends NSW AGM, 26 September 2015**

The Annual General Meeting of Friends of the ABC (NSW) Inc. will be held this year at: Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. (Between Park and Bathurst Streets) on Saturday 26 September 2015 commencing at 1.00pm.

There will be an address by Ranald Macdonald, former editor of The Age and Coordinator of the Friends Action Committee.

See Update Magazine for further details.

### **Branch Meeting, 17 October 2015**

Tony Young, our Media Coordinator, will present a workshop on **New ways to love your ABC in the digital age – Enjoy your ABC to the fullest.** Many of us access the ABC on mobile apps but are we aware of the multitude of free programs available and other ways to access the content on your TV or computer. Come and join in and have some fun while being educated.

### **Blue Mountains Branch AGM, 21 November 2015**

Our guest speaker this year will be Christine El-Khoury, Senior Producer of Q&A. Christine will be an interesting guest especially after the recent publicity of THAT Q&A session, after which the Prime Minister put a ban on the appearance of Coalition politicians and the more recent offensive twitter feed.

Join us for our own lively Q&A without the 'tweets' which may be a relief for some.

## OUR CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY

You may have seen our first banner appear at Springwood Station. Other appearances: Glenbrook Park, 31 August to 13 September and Yeaman's Bridge at Katoomba, 5 October to 18 October.

Look out for more banners appearing in your town.



Some of our local ABC Friends members at the 'Say no to the TPP' rally

## What now for Q&A?

*This question is posed by Virginia Madsen, Senior Lecturer/Convenor Radio at Macquarie University in her article in The Conversation dated August 24, 2015.*

'How does the ABC's position, represented by Mark Scott and Richard Finlayson's apology and the board directive over the Mallah episode – to move Q&A into the news division – fit into public service media's role of creative risk-taking, and keep with its independence?

There is no clear picture of what Q&A's producers think so far. They have been effectively gagged, with no opportunity to defend the show or their decision to include Mallah in the live audience that night.

Q&A has developed into exciting TV, increasing its audience share...taking current affairs out of its possibly over-controlled, safer, pre-recorded comfort zone. It engages "the live" in genuinely new ways, contributing to democratic participation and understanding. It pioneered Twitter as a further tier of audience commentary.

<https://theconversation.com/cost-of-qanda-compromise-to-abc-independence-remains-to-be-seen-44596>

## 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

### Media Coordinator

Tony Young  
web@fabcnswbm.org.au

### Newsletter Editor

Eunice Goodberg  
egoodberg@yahoo.com

### Campaign Coordinator

Phil Greenidge  
campaign\_coordinator@fabcnswbm.org.au

### Branch Photographer

Jan O'Leary

### Committee Members

Helen Routledge  
Bev Redshaw

## 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.