

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and Friends,

Our Annual General Meeting is just a few weeks away and I urge all members to make the effort to attend and be part of the decision making meeting for the immediate future of our ABC/SBS. We are fortunate to have Christine El-Khoury, Senior Audience Producer with the ABC's Q&A as our keynote speaker. Christine has participated on International Broadcasts on Q&A, in the private sector of several reality documentary series, as a producer/reporter with Insight on SBS and as a reporter with National Indigenous Television. This opportunity should not be missed to hear Christine and ask her your questions.

The Annual General Meeting is sometimes considered not to be interesting and with some risk that you may end up on the committee. However our guest speaker on this occasion should prove very interesting. But we need your support more than ever for the future of OUR ABC/SBS as we now know it and we do need to recruit New Committee Members to fill several vacancies. Please, if you can spare some time to bring your skills and energy and be part of our team I would really appreciate it.

The President's Report at the AGM will give you some insight into the wonderful work done by our Committee on your behalf and I offer my congratulations and thanks to the team.

Our Monthly Meetings will resume on 21 February 2016 and we will need your help to "STOP THE CHOP" at the Federal Election yet to be announced.

Have a Great Christmas and join us in the Fight in the New Year to Save Our ABC/SBS.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Barry Redshaw

Next meeting

Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday November 21, 10:00am
AGM Guest Speaker 11:00am

ABC's Q&A 'Democracy in action'

Christine El-Khoury, Senior Audience Producer with Q&A is our guest speaker

at our 2015 AGM In the five years Christine has worked on the program she has travelled around the country giving Australians in the major capital cities and in regional Australia the opportunity to participate in what Q&A likes to call 'democracy in action'.



The Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls

Saturday November 21, 2015

11.00am guest speaker & discussion (10.00am AGM)

All welcome Admission \$5 then join us for lunch

ABC Friends
Blue Mountains Branch

www.fabcnswbm.org.au

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End of Year Dinner – Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls

Tuesday December 15– RSVP by 7 December

Come along for a most enjoyable night of convivial company for an excellent value dinner of two for the price of one. Vegetarian and gluten free meals are available.

RSVP by 7 December to Garth Taylor on 4784 3301 or email: garht@aapt.net.au

Stop the Chop!

Join and Donate



abcfriendsnsw.org.au

Sarah Ferguson – A.N.Smith Lecture on Journalism delivered on October 7, 2015

Award-winning journalist Sarah Ferguson says the future role of public broadcasting in Australia is at risk and journalists must uphold rigour and credibility in the face of political secrecy and technological changes.

“Journalism’s success in the future depends a lot on how we respond to technological change around us and the growing pressure from governments, organisations and corporations to restrict at every possible moment our access to information.”

The *Four Corners* correspondent and sometime current affairs anchor said former Prime Minister Tony Abbott was hostile towards the ABC, accusing ABC journalists of being unpatriotic, of taking everyone’s side but Australia’s, of lacking basic affection for the home team”.

But she said the future of the ABC and the profession of journalism was no clearer following the “great switcheroo at the top of our national politics” — from Tony Abbott to Malcolm Turnbull.

“What the ABC’s critics failed to understand is that it is not the ABC’s job to project the country according to their tastes,” Ferguson continued. “Nor is it the ABC’s role to boost or spruik for Australia, in peace or in conflict.

- See more at: <http://www.thecitizen.org.au/news/abcs-sarah-ferguson-urges-journalists-fight-information#sthash.bRoMd54F.dpuf>

Recent Events attended by ABCF Blue Mountains

ABC – Digital Services Presentation – Our Media

Coordinator Tony Young shared his knowledge of the multitude of free digital ABC programs. **“You’ve got the whole world in your hands....”** Due to the success of the session another will be considered next year. Get your questions ready.

ABCF NSW AGM – National Campaign against funding cuts. Look out for campaign advertisements in the SMH 31 October and 07 November.

ABC – More Job Cuts

The ABC has decided to cut another 29 workers from its Technology division, a decision forced by the Government’s ongoing attack on the important services the ABC provides for all Australians. More than 430 jobs have now been cut since the ABC’s budget was slashed by \$254 million in May and November last year.

CPSU ABC Section Secretary, Sindy Ealy, said: “Unfortunately this decision means there are likely to be more technical glitches and interruptions to programming as a result of this decision. The CPSU is concerned that the cracks are already starting to show and there’s only so much the hardworking ABC staff who remain can do to paper over them. These job cuts are the latest sign that those cuts are unsustainable and should be reversed.”

Committee

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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.