

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and Friends,

I do wish you all a successful and enjoyable new year as we step up to the challenges and threats to the ABC that will confront us from all directions during 2016.

The AGM returned the hard working 2015 Committee with Penny Tayler replacing Haidee Roper who stood down as Minute Secretary after an outstanding term. The Committee will meet prior to the February 20, 2016 Branch Meeting to review and refresh plans and events for this year.

2015 was a busy year for both Our ABC and ABC Friends that saw both positive and negative media comments and reports of bias and unsubstantiated inefficiencies under difficult circumstances.

There have been a number of recent media articles and reports warranting our attention and comment over the Christmas and New Year period. None more questionable than the "ABC invitation" to Andrew Bolt to participate in and debate indigenous affairs. Email traffic and comment between some of our members was prolific with differing opinions in regards to Bolt's suitability as well as his engagement.

This year, following on from the success of the ABC Friends Booth at the Lawson Community Magpie Markets in 2015, we will continue to lift community awareness and encourage support for the ABC.

The 2016 Australia Day Celebrations at Glenbrook Park attracted interest, donations and more than 250 signatures in support of the ABC Petition to all Political Parties and Independents standing for the Federal Elections. My thanks to those who helped on the day. The recent advice of the cancellation of the 2016 Springwood Foundation Day Celebrations we have participated in for the last few years is disappointing.

Our prime focus now is to concentrate on our Branch Campaign leading up to the as yet unannounced Federal Election. We must be ready and prepared to implement our Blue Mountains Electorate Campaign

Next meeting

Grand View Hotel,
Wentworth Falls
Saturday February 20, 10:00am

early. We will continue to use our campaign slogan "STOP the CHOP – Our ABC is being gutted" implemented in 2015 and our Campaign Coordinator, Phil Greenidge, is bringing new and innovative ideas to the Committee this month.

With the upcoming mid-year changes in the top job at the ABC (the retirement of Managing Director, Mark Scott and the appointment of Michelle Guthrie) we can expect further changes and scrutiny in the name of "progress" at the ABC. We cannot ignore the aggressive activities of those who see the ABC as an easy target. This year of Federal Budget and Election will again be challenging for Our ABC and will demand our hard work and support to achieve the best outcomes.

Barry Redshaw
President, FABCBM Branch

AGM and Guest Speaker 2015

With the business end of the AGM concluded, our guest speaker, Senior Audience Producer for Q&A, Christine El-Khoury, shared an enlightening behind-the-scenes talk/Q&A with members and guests. The interest was such that it was a tad difficult to call a halt at the required time. An extended Q&A session continued over lunch and was enjoyed by all.



End of Year December 2015

Our EOY Celebration Dinner, held at the Grandview, was a great night. Along with some fun there was also much discussion around the future of our ABC.



Australia Day 2015 ABCFBM stall

The day started with an overcast sky but as the cloud cleared it became uncomfortably warm. The Secretary and Media Co-ordinator left the upper mountains in cool mist and drizzle.

Our stall was very successful but once again, we were flabbergasted by the number of ABC watchers/listeners who were unaware of the funding cuts and what these cuts have and will continue to mean for the ABC, its supporters and its employees.

Our SAVE YOUR ABC balloons were a big hit with the little people. Unfortunately we ran out of the attachments used to hold the balloons on the sticks or there would have been many more little SAVE YOUR ABC's on the move around Glenbrook Park and hopefully beyond.



Stop the Chop!
Join & Donate
abcfriendsnsw.org.au



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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.