

From the President's Desk

ABC Friends Mediawaves, News and Headlines

Hello Members and Friends,

The threat of more sackings, forced redundancies and early retirements remains at our ABC and Australia's independent public broadcaster is still very much at risk.

The ABC's efficiency savings of \$20 million In 2015/16 year will continue to increase by a further \$45million in 2016/17 and \$47million in 2017/18. *Be assured the 'CHOP' will continue.* We cannot relax or lose the enthusiasm we displayed in 2016.

For ABC Friends to remain a force we need to concentrate on the ongoing activities of our Branch and continue to make our Blue Mountains community aware of what is happening. To do this, our branch needs to retain strong membership and an active Committee. Some of our 2016 Committee members are not continuing in 2017, although some have agreed to stay on board. Our AGM replaces the November monthly meeting, please consider giving your support by standing for election, nominate fellow members who are keen but reluctant to stand or consider offering to step up to support our Branch Events.

Our upcoming October meeting will be the last Branch Meeting before our 2016 AGM so please come along and if you would like more details or want more information about what is involved, please ask our Secretary or President.

2016 Guest Speaker—we are extremely fortunate to have a terrific guest speaker this year, so check out the details on page 2 and do join us for a unique experience through "past to present".

Barry Redshaw
President ABCFBM

Next meetings

The Grand View Hotel,

Wentworth Falls

Saturday, October 15, 10:00am

AGM Saturday November 19, 10.00am

Going for the the X Factor

"The ABC's managing director, Michelle Guthrie, has embarked on a grand plan to reshape the broadcaster, starting with a hand-picked team of executives dubbed Think-X. Shorthand for "Thinking Experience", Think-X has a clear goal: work out how to be more "pan-ABC", whatever that means."

"Think-X came from the MD's observation that we need a more strategic, pan-ABC approach to shaping and raising engagement across our three main stakeholder groups – staff, audiences and community," the leaked memo says. The group will "immerse themselves" in the project, "While the initial canvas is broad, the aim of the exercise is to empower the team to set parameters for this work and the measures of success and then to deliver tangible outcomes," the memo says. Accompanying the memo is a motivational video featuring a garden gnome. We can't wait to see the results which emerge from this thinktank."

Original article by Amanda Meade in The Guardian Australia on 16 September 2016

Continue reading here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/sep/16/michelle-guthrie-pushes-abc-executives-to-go-for-the-x-factor>



Chance Encounter on the Back Roads

Two of our branch members have been travelling the NSW outback and while at the biennial White Cliffs Art Festival they were very fortunate to meet up with Heather Ewart and her ABC colleagues filming a new series of "Back Roads" going to air early next year.

Their comment was that Heather was 'very friendly', which we all suspected.

Australia Plus and Swisse Wellness

"All funding to the Australia Network was cut in the 2014 federal budget days before it was about to sign a contract with Shanghai Media Holdings to begin broadcasting in China as the third foreign broadcaster with access to the country. This resulted in the loss of 80 jobs. The replacement, Australia Plus was launched in September 2014.

Australia Plus is ABC International's multi-platform media service, delivering Australian content in languages of Asia and the Pacific. It is produced by the ABC and presented with the support of sponsors, Monash University, the Victorian State Government and Swisse Wellness. These 'Foundation Partners' receive branding and advertising opportunities across all Australia Plus platforms.

Concerns have been raised about an ABC partnership with the vitamin and supplements brand Swisse Wellness.

A World-renowned public health expert who is also an Adjunct Associate Professor in Monash University's Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, said he was disappointed Australia Plus had partnered with the company.

Ironically a segment on ABC's satirical program The Checkout examined claims by Swisse which ended in a defamation lawsuit in 2014, but an ABC spokesman said no out-of-court settlement was paid and both Swisse and the ABC paid their own legal fees".

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-23/concerns-raised-as-australia-plus-partners-with-swisse-wellness/7778488>

Committee

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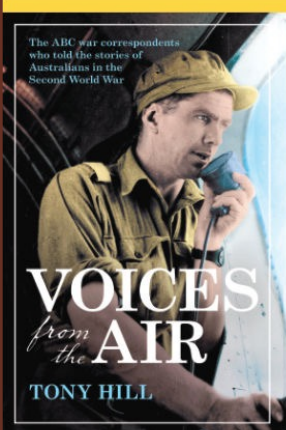
www.fabcnswbm.org.au

For membership enquiries/ changes or to find out more about ABC Friends, please contact our Secretary at

secretary@fabcnswbm.org.au

Past to Present

join us for guest speaker author and ABC lifer Tony Hill



Managing Editor of ABC News 24 and former ABC foreign correspondent, Tony began his career with the ABC as a journalist cadet.

His book tells the stories of the fledgling ABC's remarkable WW2 correspondents, their extraordinary experiences and how, for the first time, radio carried the news and sounds of war to those at home. Tony's wealth of experience and knowledge of the ABC spans past to present.



Saturday November 19, 2016

11.00am guest speaker & discussion
(10.00am AGM)

The Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls
All welcome

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