

February 2018.

Next Meeting: February 17<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

Please Note! Some online articles

may have expired due to the long break.

## Editorial Notes.

We start our New Year with a new President and a refreshed Committee eager to continue the good work of the past with a stronger and sustained defence from predatorial and relentless attack! A recently overheard comment rings true “the problem with political jokes is that they sometimes get elected!” 2018 will see ongoing changes to Our ABC programs and restructuring. The first ABC Annual Public Meeting, 2018 is a welcome change from boardroom press releases and dubious decision making, behind closed doors. It is all well to invite questions and comments but actions speak louder than words. Many of our Committee have applied to attend and we welcome the opportunity.

We still rely on your vigilance and opinions for the Newsletter. Please email your contributions to [barryandbev2@bigpond.com](mailto:barryandbev2@bigpond.com) and we hope that one of your New Year’s resolutions included attending as many of our Meetings as time allows and be part of our decision making process. You can bring a relative or friend.

## Welcome to and meet Our New President.

Greetings and Happy New Year to all Blue Mountains ABC Friends

I’ve lived in Springwood for 25 years, with a background in primary school education and community welfare. Currently I volunteer at National Trust properties in the Blue Mountains and teach Ethics classes at local primary schools.

I hope to meet the challenge of my new role with as much enthusiasm as our esteemed previous president, Margaret Foy. Happily, this should be less daunting with the support and guidance of Margaret and the Committee, with its huge amount of experience and knowledge.

I cannot imagine a day without the ABC (ad-free Best Communications!) particularly Radio National, often waking up with Fran Kelly and closing the ABC day with Phillip Adams! Missing Lateline already....

As ABC Friends and Lovers, we count on programming which is informative, stimulating, entertaining and provocative; sometimes all those qualities in one program! Something for everyone and a truly trusted brand.

At our AGM last November, our guest speaker Mal Hewitt (National Vice-President of ABC Friends) passionately described the many concerns he has for the future of our ABC. We MUST be concerned! As a lobby group, we must do all we can to ensure our national treasure is no further eroded, but maintained and advanced, particularly in such a changed media environment.

Please join us for our first branch meeting for 2018, at the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 10am. You may wish to stay on for lunch, available at the Hotel Bistro, which offers a great menu. Meet fellow like-minded local ABC Friends and help us start the year with a crowd.

Sue Noske. President ABCFBM.

ABC “audiences are not dumb!” (Letter to the Editor SMH 14/12/17) The “dumbing down” of the shareholders of Our ABC by cuts to programming, staffing and content are outcomes of “change for change sake.” Our ABC, has since early days been the honest, timely and reliable source of news, events and happenings each and every day. Without Our ABC’s investigative journalism, even more tortuous and devastating evidence of events would never be aired.

Barry Redshaw ABCFBM

### [ABC RADIO AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES NEW EXTENDED MORNING SHOW TO PNG AND PACIFIC.](#)

Sydney Morning Herald 20/12/17 Karl Quinn.

ABC Radio Australia listeners in PNG and the Pacific will get an additional 2 hours of dedicated live morning weekly programming with the launch of the new morning news, talk and entertainment. The Manager of Radio Australia, James O'Brien said the extended morning show would allow greater coverage of daily breaking PNG and Pacific news as well as introducing a broader mix of chat, music and entertainment.

<http://about.abc.net.au/press-releases/abc-radio-australia-launches-new-extended-Morning-show-to-PNG-and-the-Pacific>

### [HERE'S HOPING MICHELLE GUTHRIE HASN'T RESTRUCTURED THE ABC'S SPINE AWAY.](#)

Sydney Morning Herald 14/11/17 Karl Quinn.

There is a lot to like in the restructure announced by ABC Managing Director, Michelle Guthrie, but it does little to address the broadcaster's biggest challenges. The new structure pivots the organization away from broadcast channels towards content areas. Staff will not work for ABC TV, Radio or online anymore. They will work for one of three teams: news, analysis and investigations. Flagged as "the biggest shake-up in the national broadcaster's history" and there will be no job losses, no cuts to programs or networks and earlier than expected recruitment of additional staff for regions.

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/heres-hoping-michelle-guthrie-hasn't-just-restructured-the-ABC's-spine-away>

### [ABC RADIO NATIONAL ANNOUNCES THE 2018 LINE-UP.](#)

ABC Press Release 6/12/17 Bailey Charteris

The ideas network welcomes an ensemble of new programs to the 2018 schedule. ABC Radio National will continue to nurture the intellectual and cultural lives of all Australians by introducing dynamic new voices and programs to its impressive suite of specialist content.

<https://radio.press.abc.net.au/abc-rn-announces-2018-lineup#>

### [ABC TO LAUNCH NEW RURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM 3 YEARS AFTER AXING BUSH TELEGRAPH.](#)

Sydney Morning Herald 13/12/17. Broede Carmody.

The new radio show provides in-depth news and analysis of issues important to rural and regional Australians. The show is tentatively titled "The Dirt" that has attracted some negative responses. The ABC is calling for feedback and story ideas.

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/tv-and-radio/abc-to-launch-new-rural-affairs-programme-three-years-after-axing-bush-telegraph-20171213-h03wgg.html>

### [ABC BOARD HOST EDUCATION FORUM.](#)

About ABC Press Release posted 1/12/17. Kirsty Bradley Community Engagement Lead, ABC.

The ABC recently announced a reorganization of content teams to ensure subject matter experts working together to deliver across all platforms. The ABC Education forum, 29/11/17 was hosted by the ABC board, members of the Leadership Team and attended by some of Australia's future leaders, teachers, school principals, students and industry professionals. More than 180 attendees participated, with their views and feedback helping to shape and inform the ABC's Education strategy for the future.

<http://about.abc.net.au/press.releases/abc-board-hosts-education-forum/>

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