

## No Branch Meeting this month

The usual ABC Friends Blue Mountains general meeting will not be held this month as it falls on Easter Saturday. The next general meeting will be held on May 20.

## Defender or Destroyer?

New ABC Board Chairman Justin Milne commenced his five year term on April 1. What sort of influence will he have on the ABC? Milne is a good friend of Malcolm Turnbull but he insists the Prime Minister will not interfere. He has also made it very clear he does not think the ABC is biased. This view has been slammed by right wing media and politicians. Should we believe he will stand strong and defend the ABC against those whose wish is to destroy it or would we be April Fools to do so?



Milne doesn't see himself as an interventionist chairman, he agrees with the general direction Managing Director Michelle Guthrie is taking wooing a younger audience and moving more and more to digital delivery of content.

Below is a series of recent articles regarding the appointment of Justin Milne ranging from opinions and interviews to the new chairman's history. If you wish to express an opinion please email the Media Coordinator ([media\\_coordinator@fabcnswbm.org.au](mailto:media_coordinator@fabcnswbm.org.au))

## No bias to fix at ABC, vows new chairman

*Darren Davidson, The Australian*

The ABC's newly appointed chairman, Justin Milne, has dismissed accusations of bias in news coverage, saying the organisation would continue to resist political pressure over its editorial output. Speaking to *The Australian* in his first interview as chairman, Mr Milne said the broadcaster was fulfilling its role as a public service by presenting a wide range of political views.

"I don't come to the job thinking I need to fix the perceived bias in the ABC because I don't know that there really is a bias, but I imagine scrutiny of the ABC will continue — and so it should," he said.

Criticism from former prime minister Paul Keating, current cabinet ministers and government MPs of an ABC bias on a range of issues was more often than not driven by personal ideology and a perception of bias, he argued.

"Roughly speaking, 50 per cent of the audience will think it is biased to the left, 50 per cent will think it's biased to the right — it has ever been thus."

Full story here: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/broadcast/no-bias-to-fix-at-abc-vows-new-chairman-justin-milne/news-story/bc8bc6e055ceae34480ccbf7f777647c>

## New ABC Chairman must end biased fake news fetish

Tasmanian Liberal Senator Eric Abetz has welcomed the appointment of Mr Justin Milne as ABC Chairman.

"I'm pleased that the Government has appointed a new Chairman who has considerable private sector experience but it is vital that Mr Milne end the protection racket that has prevented a full examination of the lefty love-in that has taken hold at Ultimo," Senator Abetz said

Full story here: <https://abetz.com.au/news/new-abc-chairman-must-end-biased-fake-news-fetish>

## Turnbull destroys chance to remove ABC bias

Andrew Bolt, *Herald Sun*

The Turnbull Government has just appointed a new ABC chairman, Justin Milne, who absurdly claims the ABC has no bias and he has nothing to fix.

As Chris Kenny says, the Turnbull Government has just destroyed the last chance for at least five years to get a chairman who will demand the ABC be impartial or balanced.

Full story here: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/blogs/andrew-bolt/turnbull-destroys-chance-to-reform-abc-bias/news-story/d657850eb7d26f15d2c594a6e2ea2971>

## Millennial market drives new ABC chairman Justin Milne

Mitchell Bingemann, *The Australian*

The ABC's new chairman Justin Milne has urged staff to "go where the people are" and if that means focusing on digital instead of television, so be it.

Making the ABC more relevant to 18 to 35-year-olds has been a long-running concern at the public broadcaster and one that Mr Milne — in his first interview since taking up the high-profile, part-time position — recognises is among its biggest challenges.

"Media is fragmenting and in a world of fragmentation you need to go where the fragments are," Mr Milne told Media from his Sydney harbourside office last week.

"You can't sit back and say 'why won't people watch my TV station goddamnit?' That's not a terribly good strategy.

"What we are all learning is that you need to go where people are. Millennials are on their phones and on social media so you had better find a way to get to them."

A former high-profile Telstra executive and longstanding friend of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Mr Milne is a strong supporter of ABC managing director Michelle Guthrie's strategy to increase the public broadcaster's distribution on digital platforms.

Full story here: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/millennial-market-drives-new-abc-chairman-justin-milne/news-story/ae7d0eea9aa0ccac21308658379ee838>

## From Flinders Uni to the ABC board: New ABC chairman Justin Milne looks forward to being part of "new conversations"

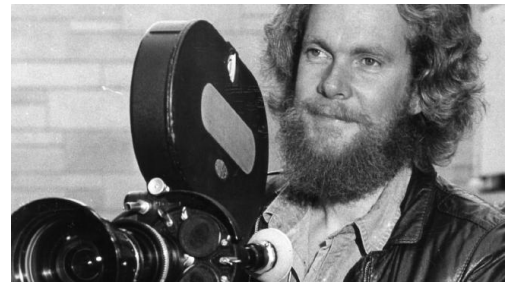
Penny DeBelle, *The Advertiser*

He is the powerful new digital-savvy chair of the ABC and a good friend of the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, but in the early 1970s Justin Milne was just another student at Flinders University, protesting the war in Vietnam and studying drama and arts.

"It was the early '70s and everybody was active," says Mr Milne, who grew up in Coromandel Valley. "We were getting out of Vietnam and a lot of people were very motivated about that, especially students, so I was in good company."

Full story here: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/lifestyle/sa-lifestyle/from-flinders-uni-to-the-abc-board-new-abc-chairman-justin-milne-looks-forward-to-being-part-of-new-conversations/news-story/bcb1281024918605f1574264c377a978>

Note this story includes a video of Michelle Guthrie talking ABC staff on the ABC restructure on March 6.



## Winter Magic Parade

Our Branch intends to be involved in Winter Magic again this year by marching in the parade and holding a stall. This draws the public's attention to the ABC and provides an opportunity to inform people that ABC management is changing the structure rapidly and things are not always what they seem behind the scenes.

If you can participate in either the parade and/or the stall, please email the Media Coordinator.

