

Our Next Meeting 10.00am Saturday August 19, Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls

ABC Friends Blue Mountains Newsletter Survey

We are conducting a survey to ask all our branch members their thoughts on the monthly newsletter. Please complete and return the included survey. Note this is a separate survey to the one in the article later in this newsletter.

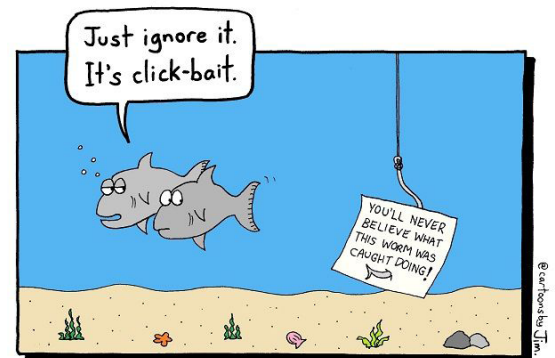
The full text from these articles can be accessed with this link: fabcnswbm.org.au/n8

Opinion journalism and clickbait

Santilla Chingaipe The Saturday Paper July 29, 2017

In the age of viral videos, you never quite know what will become the next internet sensation. It could be a North Korea expert being upstaged on camera by his children while conducting a live interview, or a police shooting of an unarmed black man in the United States.

Recently, the ABC's political editor, Chris Uhlmann, found himself in the position of social media sensation after a piece of his on-camera commentary went viral. His takedown of United States president Donald Trump was praised by commentators and journalists alike for its searing assessment of Trump's performance at the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany.



Attacking the ABC could be One Nation's least popular policy yet

The Australia Institute

As the Federal Government's proposed legislation to relax restrictions on who can own and operate newspapers, TV and radio stations in Australia, Pauline Hanson's One Nation party has reportedly proposed that ABC funding should be cut as a condition of its support for the legislation.

New polling released today shows a combined 74% of South Australians want funding to the ABC increased or maintained, while 18% supported cutting the national broadcaster.

When asked specifically about whether the Government should cut the ABC in order to get One Nation's support for their media reform laws, support was 16.5%.

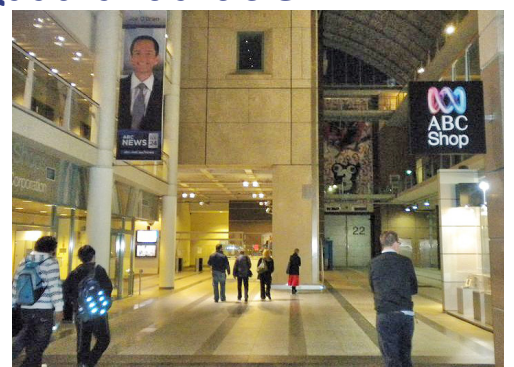


ABC foyer closed to public after controversial Quadrant article

Jenna Price SMH July 26, 2017

I've always loved the ABC. It keeps the clock by which my life has been measured.

The 7.45am news bulletin on local radio. The 7pm news. The strange little modern experiments that provide an insight into generations not mine including The Katering Show where I sit in a room watching television with others who are all laughing and who get all the jokes. Although I haven't laughed on time once, it's true I now call that catch-up app of the ABC's, IVoo. Just like the Kates.



ABC Friends National Survey - 'What Do You Want of Your ABC?'

This questionnaire is designed to enable you to provide your views about the ABC in the future as it moves again into uncharted waters.

ABC Managing Director, Michelle Guthrie, has given her support for ABC Friends' initiative to provide feedback to ABC Management on what we want of our ABC. This is your opportunity to be part of that process. This is an online survey. To complete go to: fabcnswbm.org.au/n8

Why we need the ABC more than ever

ABC Friends National Spokesman Randal Macdonald writes in Fairfax newspapers about how the ABC is becoming more important. It begins:

"Sometimes being an ABC Friends officeholder is difficult."

"You want to shout from the rooftops about how dumb an ABC board or management decision seems to be, criticise an on-air interviewer for rudeness or lack of preparation, or just say that everyone expects better from our publicly funded National Broadcaster."

"My challenge is to keep a sense of proportion and recognise what to me is the bigger picture: that the ABC must be preserved as an essential source of information and entertainment – an alternative voice in a democracy where many voices and sources of information need to be heard."



ABC Drama and Comedy "In Decline"

Karl Quinn, *The Sydney Morning Herald*

"Anyone doubting the scale of the challenges facing the ABC right now need only look at the figures revealed in the Senate last Friday to see how great they are.

"In response to questions on notice from the Greens' Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, the ABC coughed up a set of numbers that point clearly to the conclusion that the national broadcaster is stretched to breaking point in some key areas."



Nine News Darwin set to lose local bulletin

Channel 9 is closing its studios in Darwin. The Darwin 9 news will be broadcast from Brisbane. Channels 7&10 have already left Darwin. This leaves the ABC as the only local broadcaster, a great example of the ABC covering outback Australia.

A letter to the SMH

Barrie Redshaw *Former President, ABC Friends Blue Mountains Branch*

Our ABC has missed out again by \$30 million! With the recent Government Funding Grant going to News Corporation's Fox Sport that Treasurer Scott Morrison described on ABC News 24 (July 20, 17) as just another policy in the 2017 Budget while the Communications Minister Mitch Fifield, declined to comment in the absence of appropriate documentation.

The 2017 Budget includes \$30 million for the broadcast of unrepresented sport on television.

Our ABC, the peoples National Broadcaster, has been savaged by ongoing cuts in recent Federal Budgets since 2014 that continue into the 2020/21 Budget Forecast, while News Corporation's Fox Sports will receive a windfall, friendly, token funding donation for paid television that only the privileged can afford. The people need a truthful and detailed explanation why the entire \$30 million could not have been provided to OUR ABC or shared rather than given to an Internationally based, privately funded off shore Corporation. The funding has not been clearly thought through but simply announced without documentation. So much for "Put Australians First" it appears to be "Put Australians Down". Sounds like another backroom deal to me!

Newsletter Readership Survey

At our last general meeting we discussed the monthly newsletter.

The newsletter provides a communication between the branch and the members and assists in keeping the members informed of ABC issues and the current activities of the branch.

As you may be aware, we are currently running the committee at a depleted level with the administration load falling to very few people. The current newsletter is produced in both electronic form and a hard copy is posted to those members without email or internet facilities – this takes a considerable amount of time each month for one person to source the content and to produce the final product.

We are asking all members to complete a short survey to express their opinions on whether the newsletter should continue.

If the newsletter is found to be of interest to enough members, it will continue (whilst taking onboard any comments arising from the survey), otherwise it will be reduced in form and frequency or scrapped altogether.

Please note a 'no response' will be considered a response for scrapping the newsletter but it would be helpful to us if you did undertake the survey and add your comments.

Please complete/return the survey by August 15 so that results may be analysed and discussed at our next general meeting.

Please mail completed survey to:

Media Coordinator, ABC Friends Blue Mountains, 49 Waratah Road Wentworth Falls, 2782

Circle your answers.

- 1 The monthly newsletter aims to provide members with short pieces of information on current news stories involving the ABC with links to the full articles plus information on current activities in the local branch. How frequently do you read it?
(a) Each month (b) Occasionally (c) Rarely (d) Never

If you didn't answer (a) what are your reasons?

- 2 On average, how many items of the newsletter do you read?
(a) All items (b) Some items (c) None of them
- 3 Do you ever click on the links to read the entire news stories?
(a) Often (b) Sometimes (c) Never

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4 *Snippets* is a collection of 'snippets' of information and links to important news breaking stories involving the ABC. Do you feel Snippets has provided worthwhile information for you?

(a) Yes (b) Maybe (c) No

Comments:

5 Based on your own usage, how frequently would you like to see the newsletter published?

(a) Monthly (b) Every second month (c) Not at all, I do not read it

6 Do you ever go to the websites of ABC Friends NSW or ABC Friends National to read news on the ABC?

(a) Often (b) Sometimes (c) Never

7 Would you be willing to contribute to the newsletter by providing links to current, relevant news items?

(a) Yes (b) No

8 Would you be prepared to write occasional articles to be included in the newsletter?

(a) Yes (b) No

9 Please provide name and email address if willing to contribute news links or articles:

Name:

Email address:

10 Do you have any other comments about the Newsletter?

Thank you for completing this survey