



Next Meeting: 10am, October 21
Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

AGM 10am NOVEMBER 18th.
Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Thanks Tony Young for your always informative Newsletters in the recent past. Tony has been filling in as correspondence secretary, a position that we hope will be filled at the Annual General Meeting on November 18, 2017.

Bev, Barry and Kirsten have volunteered to produce the ABCFBM Newsletter to ensure members remain informed of Branch Events, Activities and ABC News.

The recent Newsletter Survey attracted just 18% or 30 of the 170 email and mail invitees to respond. Those who responded promoted constructive and varied discussion to the September Branch Meeting that resolved to continue the publication of the Newsletter for the time being. We can revisit the decision if we need to, at a later date.

We invite all Members to contribute items of interest, News, News Links from selected Media and Events or comments /suggestions for inclusion for future publications. Your contributions, preferably by email to barryandbev2@bigpond.com will need to meet the production deadline by the end of each month prior to publication to meet the printing deadline the first Friday of each month. Early copy for inclusion would be much appreciated. We hope you enjoy our first edition and encourage your comments and suggestions for review.

Barry and Beverly Redshaw Co- Editors, Kirstie Boerst Production Assistant.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The 6th and 7th October 2017 will herald a very important event in the history of ABC Friends, the first ever ABCF National Conference in Sydney with a Star- Studded list of Guest Speakers. The theme, "Democracy Demands Diversity!" a topical theme to produce lively and intelligent discussion. The ABC and SBS have been savagely attacked by some parliamentarians and the Murdoch Media, often with completely untrue information. We need to have a National Campaign to protect the true independence and identity of our National Broadcasters! Our Branch is in dire need of replenishing the Committee at this year's AGM. This is a very serious request as our Branch may well fold if we don't have an energetic executive. The Blue Mountains Branch has been one of the most vigorous in the State for many years. [Please do not let our Branch, full of enthusiastic members, close.](#) We need it now more than ever to fight for the Public Broadcaster.

Margaret Foy.

POSITIONS VACANT.

As Margaret says, the 2017 AGM November 18, is the most important Meeting for our Branch this year! Without the great contributions from Margaret Foy, Tony Young and other Members this year 2017 we would not have been able to continue. This is a problem faced by many organisations that rely on their members to volunteer to continue to function. All positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and we need you to consider becoming involved. You can self- nominate for a role of your choice. Efforts to recruit Office Bearers are often met with responses like "I don't have the time" and we appreciate that, but we really need your help. Our Branch only meets monthly and we have infrequent Committee Meetings with most things resolved by email. If you need to contact me for more information or to register your expression of interest barryandbev2@bigpond.com or 0429492168.

Featured Articles

How the government and One Nation may use media reforms to clip the ABC's wings.

Denis Muller-The Conversation -September 27,2017.

Among the four concessions concerning the ABC that senator Pauline Hanson extracted from the federal government in exchange for her support of its recent media ownership law changes, one in particular, has the potential to do real damage to the national broadcaster. This is the promised inquiry into the ABC's competitive neutrality. Since the **government does not need a vote in parliament to set up an inquiry** like this, it is easy to see how it might unfold. The government could effortlessly craft terms of reference consistent with that axiom of politics to never hold an inquiry without knowing the outcome.

<http://theconversation.com/how-the-government-and-one-nation-may-use-media-reforms-to-clip-the-abcs-wings-84615>



Dance of the Elephants

Despite Nick Xenophon's efforts, less powerful players were squeezed out of media reform deal.

Mathew Ricketson-Inside Story 18 September 2017.

The votes of Nick Xenophon's Team of senators and the amendments of their leader were critical to the bill's passing. The new laws will enable the local media industry to compete against the new tech giants, Google and Facebook, who are hoovering up millions of dollars of advertising revenue that previously went to the local media industry. The removal of legal restrictions on the ownership and reach of local media companies that could lead to a rash of mergers that will somehow favour Rupert Murdoch's NewsCorp Australia.

<http://insidestory.org.au/dance-of-the-elephants/>



ABC bosses get staff to sit in a ring with toys to "break the ice"

One recent staff event about podcasting has caught our imagination. The newly formed studio division held a feedback session with staff in which attendees were asked to sit in a ring and select a plastic toy from the centre of the group that most represents how they feel and speak "through" it. Sounds like a direct lift from ABC TV Utopia-or the BBC's The Thick of It. This is common training tool to start discussions.



Photograph: Hwa Goh/PR IMAGE

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2017/jul/21/abc-bosses-get-staff-to-sit-in-a-ring-with-toys-to-break-the-ice>

Other Features of INTEREST.

THE EDGE OF THE BUSH REVIEW: ABC'S MOST ORIGINAL COMEDY IN YEARS.

<https://dailyreview.com.au/the-edge-of-the-bush/65492/>

Beyond cats and Kardashians: can journalism satisfy audiences without dumbing down?

<http://theconversation.com/beyons-cats-and-kardashians-can-journalism-satisfy-audiences-without-dumbing-down-83040>

An ABC News story shows how strange "going viral" can be

<https://theconversation.com/an-abc-news-story-shows-how-strange-going-viral-can-be-83775>

"Disgusting": Jacqui Lambie blasts government and One Nation over ABC "deal"

<http://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2017/09/14/jacqui-lambie-abc-one-nation-media>

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