

April, 2019.

Next Meeting: April 20th 2019. 10.am.

Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls.

President's Report.

Unfortunately the Penrith CBD Festival was cancelled due to rain. Hopefully, this event will be a regular one on our calendar. Despite the rain we had 21 attending our regular meeting that day, with 6 apologies. We raised significant funds, with our popular raffle, the prize being a superb Begonia pot plant, donated by Dorothy MacDougall. As usual, much lively discussion took place, covering a range of topics, mostly focusing on the upcoming election. We have set a tentative date for our Candidates Forum Saturday 4th May 11:00a.m. at the Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls. When confirmed details will be posted on our Facebook site, our Blue Mountains Friends website and will be advertised in both Macquarie and Lindsay electorates with posters displayed in many prominent locations.

Our Big Campaign Opportunity will be Springwood Foundation Day on Saturday 27th April, a date close to the Federal Election in May. We would love to see you there, amongst the many thousands who attend this event and our stall will be outside the Commonwealth Bank in Macquarie Street. We'll have the latest Friends flyers, a pertinent petition, great Friends merchandise and wonderful free bumper stickers. We anticipate a productive, enjoyable and cloudless day!

A big thanks again to our dedicated event volunteers: face-to-face engagement with fellow locals is clearly a very effective way of raising awareness of the serious threats facing the ABC and promoting ABC Friends.

Sue Noske

Editor's Report.

After a landslide of media headlines highlighting events at Our ABC since September last, it is now more like the calm before the storm ie. The imminent Federal Election. We Friends of the ABC are facing a firestorm of demonizing and demoralising attacks from antagonists and opponents of Public Broadcasting. Our ABC will continue to be criticized, threatened and defunded to a point of redundancy unless this stupidity is eliminated. Our ABC Friends NSW/ACT and National leaders are preparing to mount a strong defensive campaign and we, the branches and members, must support them. Please consider how you can contribute with your time and effort, no matter how small, to support our branch campaign by putting your hand up both before and on election day. We need you to help us!

We will know who the Friends of Your ABC are in Canberra from the candidate responses to our pre-election questionnaire and we are encouraging the voters to make their vote count by voting for "THE CANDIDATE YOU CAN TRUST WITH YOUR ABC."

Peter Manning PhD, an adjunct Professor of Communications at UTS and a former head of ABCTV News and Current Affairs wrote in his essay, (February 26th 2019) "The unknown thoughts of Chair Ita" for John Menadue's- "Pearls and Irritations." <https://johnmenadue.com/peter-manning-the-unknown-thoughts-of-chair-ita/>

"For the first time, Liberal Party policy calls for "the full privatisation of the Australian broadcasting corporation" with the caveat that services to rural and regional areas might be spared if they are not commercially viable. The motion at the Party's last federal council meeting June 2018 was passed by 39 votes to 10. "There are several ways we could privatise the ABC-we could obviously sell it to a media mogul, or organization, the government could sell it on the stock market. No delegates from the floor of the Council meeting stood to speak against the motion."

No political party owns the right to sell or destroy YOUR ABC so we must fight the fight of our lives and WIN! PLEASE HELP!

ABC News from Headlines and Grapevines. (March/April)

“On Aunty” essay by Jonathan Holmes, “What next for Your ABC?”

Australia’s public broadcaster, “Aunty is about to turn 90, yet Your ABC has seldom been in this much trouble with budget cuts, ferocious political pressure, sagging staff morale, leadership chaos and hostile commercial rivals. Meanwhile audiences are deserting broadcast TV and radio. What is the ABC’s place in the era of media disruption? Can it reach a younger audience on new platforms while still satisfying her loyal fans? (This is a must read- editor’s recommendation)

<https://gleebooks.worldsecuresystems.com/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=313361>

www.mup.com.au “Jonathan Holmes On Aunty”

ABC Highlights at the Quill Awards. 16th March 2019

Sally Jackson Communications lead, ABC News.

Highlights for the ABC at the Melbourne Press-Clubs Quill Awards for Excellence in Journalism included Barrie Cassidy being honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award and Matilda Marozzi being named Young Journalist of the year. Along with many other ABC Finalists and Winners of Awards. Cassidy also won the Keith Dunstan Quill for Commentary for his work on Insiders Extra. The judges said that at a young age Marozzi “has already achieved what many others with far more experience have failed to do-change laws. Her writing is engaging and showed a maturity-beyond her years-a bright future ahead.”

<http://about.abc.net.au/press-releases/abc-highlights-at-the-quill-awards/>

ABC & Create NSW announce winners of \$445k screen initiatives 28th February 2019.

The ABC and Create NSW are proud to announce the recipients of more than \$400k funding to support diverse and innovative story-tellers across the state. The investment will support over 530 NSW-based screen production jobs across three initiatives, with funding for Western Sydney-based creatives to produce digital comedy shorts for young audiences, plus funding for four new character-driven half-hour dramas and four immersive virtual reality projects. Create NSW is the NSW Government’s arts and cultural driver, which brings together arts, screen and culture functions in an integrated entity and includes cultural infrastructure.

<http://about.abc.net.au/press-releases/abc-and-create-nsw-announce-winners-of-445k-screen-initiatives>

POSTSCRIPT.

After the “Dramas in Pyjamas”, 2018 debacle at Your ABC, generated by political demands, problems have settled down thanks to the good work by the Acting Chairperson and the Acting Managing Director. The captain’s pick (plot) for the permanent Chairperson seems to be well received by most but the Managing Director permanent appointment remains unresolved. The good work by David Anderson seems to have smoothed troubled waters with his vast ABC experience, popularity with staff and personal skills evidenced by his positive submissions and responses at recent Canberra quiz sessions (Senate Estimates).

Let’s just hope that the permanent appointment of Your ABC Managing Director is based on performance and skills and not personal opinions! After all, David Anderson was the runner-up at the time of Michelle Guthrie’s appointment as Managing Director!

While every care is taken to ensure accuracy the editor and publisher cannot assume responsibility for inaccuracies in this Newsletter.

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