

August, 2019.

Next Meeting August 17<sup>th</sup> 2019. 10.am.

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

## President's Report.

Our July meeting was lively and informative, due to the contributions of those members who were able to attend. Our meetings present a good opportunity for Friends to share ideas and discuss current issues affecting our ABC. Thank you to our members for their participation in our monthly meetings. Your input is vital and essential.

From the discussions concerning our Federal Election Campaign, we agreed that we urgently need to raise our profile in the Hawkesbury area. We currently have around 15 members in the Hawkesbury. We discussed holding an event, perhaps in Richmond or Windsor, inviting a special guest from the ABC Alumni group, to encourage interest in the ABC and the role that friends play in Defending the ABC. We will seek the assistance of our local member Susan Templeman, whose office is situated in Windsor. Susan is well known for her advocacy of our national broadcaster.

The new Penrith ABCF branch, to be established in the New Year, will provide Western Sydney, including the Hawkesbury, another regular monthly meeting opportunity. Some of us will no doubt attend the Wentworth Falls meeting AND the Penrith meeting!

Several of our members will be attending the ABCF Annual Dinner on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, with guest speaker Ita Buttrose. We'll report back to the branch about the event. There may be tickets still available. Call Joy on 9502 2335.

We plan to participate in the Blackheath Rhododendron Festival again this year. It would be great to meet up with Friends from the upper Mountains at this event, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Our stall experience was certainly enhanced last year with the surprise visit of the then acting Managing Director of the ABC David Anderson! (see our photo on homepage of [abcfriends.org.au](http://abcfriends.org.au))

If you are interested in a tour of the Ultimo ABC Studios, please call me on 0421 020 610. The tours happen Monday to Wednesday, 12.20pm. We have not set a date yet.

It may seem early to mention our Christmas Party but we have set a date for your calendar: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Always a great night! More details to follow.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 10am at the Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls. Please bring a friend! The bistro offers a great menu. You may consider joining us for lunch, after our meeting which concludes at 12pm.

Sue Noske

## Rants and Raves.

The ABC are our "enemies"! that's a direct quote from an LNP state conference right before they voted in favour of "enforcing balanced debate" at our National Broadcaster (Brisbane Times July 12<sup>th</sup> 2019). That is no idle threat! The Morrison government quietly tabled insidious CHANGES to the ABC's CHARTER that could enforce dangerous ideas into our living rooms. Legislation is proposed for introduction in the 2019 Winter/Spring sitting confirming our worst fears for free press and protection for ABC journalism.

Even though Labor and the Greens are opposed to the changes we need a solid majority of the Senate to stand strong and vote against this attack on Our ABC's editorial independence.

These changes to Our ABC's Charter are the brainchild of Pauline Hanson! The coalition last year agreed to push these changes in exchange for One Nations support for laws that increased the power of the

Murdoch media whose motto for its rabidly right-wing US TV station Fox News- “Fair and Balanced” is this Hanson’s inspiration?

With the new term of Parliament in Canberra, we need to buckle up defend like we have never done before from the expected attacks on our independence, democratic rights and Save Our ABC.

With Hon. Mitch Fifield escaping overseas and the Hon. Paul Fletcher now being the Minister for the Arts and Communications you may have missed Shaun Micallef’s “Mad as Hell” iview series 10, episode 5 featuring his farewell to Hon. Mitch Fifield and welcome to the Hon. Paul Fletcher. It was brilliant! And he didn’t miss the target.

## Facebook Feedback.

A recent facebook download shared with us by a member raised some interesting points about our ABC that you should know:

1. The ABC contributed more than \$1billion to the Australian economy in the last financial year- equalling its public investment.
2. The ABC sustains the equivalent of more than 6,000 full time jobs, including 2,500 jobs outside public broadcasting.
3. ABC funding has HALVED in real terms in 30 years!
4. 12 million Australians watch ABC TV each week. 5 million people listen to ABC Radio each week and 13 million ABC podcasts are downloaded each month.

**OUR ABC, “only an idiot would say Australians don’t want it.”**

BRANCH AUSTRALIA ACTIVIST INTERCHANGE INC.

## New ABC Boss Turns Down Pay Rise Amid Budget Squeeze.

Fergus Hunter and Jennifer Duke SMH July 25, 2019

ABC managing director David Anderson has declined to accept a pay rise, saying it would be inappropriate given he only recently took on the role and the squeeze on the Broadcaster’s budget. Mr. Anderson turned down the 2 per cent pay rise awarded to him by the Remuneration Tribunal. This was a personal decision by Mr. Anderson, who said “considering he was only appointed to the position of MD in May 2019, he did not think it appropriate to accept the pay increase after being in the role permanently for less than two months”. Mr. Anderson also said “that as the ABC goes about managing further budget cuts, declining the increase is the right thing for him to do as the managing director.”

**Following a series of Budget Cuts since 2014, the ABC is currently navigating a three-year funding freeze that came into effect this month.**

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/new-abc-boss-turns-down-pay-rise-amid-budget-squeeze-20190725-p52an4.html>

## ABC to air Climate Change: The Facts, Presented by Sir David Attenborough

About the ABC Press Releases July 18, 2019.

In a new documentary to air 7.40pm Sunday 11 August on ABC and iview, Sir David Attenborough looks at a planet on the verge of climate catastrophe.

For a long time, climate change was something that scientists were predicting would happen in the future. But that’s no longer the case. If the rate of climate change continues, it’s predicted we’ll reach the threshold for permanent environmental damage within 40 years.

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