

June, 2019

Next Meeting June 15th 2019. 10.am.

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

President's Report. What a fantastic, ABC passionate, dedicated group of Friends we have! Despite the shock outcome of the election, collectively, we have raised awareness of the need to defend our ABC, recruited new members, engaged one-on-one with many people and have thus made an impact in the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury. Many of us participated in our Friends Campaign activities, including Springwood Foundation Day, the Candidates Forum, flyer distribution at stations, shopping centres, letter-boxes, pre polling centres and polling booths on the 18th. A grand effort! **We are still hopeful, that by the time you receive this newsletter Susan Templeman will have retained the seat of Macquarie. Susan is pro ABC.**

Barry and Bev Redshaw campaigned tirelessly in Lindsay, supported by several of our Blue Mountains members. They attracted much interest and free publicity! Looking ahead, the proposed new branch based in Penrith will undoubtedly grow our Friends base in Western Sydney. Capturing untapped sectors of our communities must be a priority when advancing the mission of ABC Friends. Clearly, there is much to do in the wake of the election, as Our ABC remains precariously on the endangered species list.

Barry Redshaw, Co Vice President of ABCFBM, will chair our next meeting on Saturday 15th June, at the Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls. Regrettably, I'm unable to attend. Feedback from campaign volunteers will be on the agenda, among other important items. A chance to re-group!

Sue Noske President ABCNSWBM Friends.

We have included the sentiments expressed by our NSW/ACT President Ed. Davis, "The Morning After" the election. We feel that you will appreciate his reflections.

Dear NSW Committee and Branch President Friends,

It is clearly not the result that we fought for. It is sad and undeserved reflection on all the hard work that so many people put in across the state. I believe that we did a good job in identifying the issues around the ABC and seeking support. The effort, on the part of so many, was simply staggering. Please accept my heartfelt thanks and pass them on to all the Friends who assisted you in the campaign.

Thinking about the results the morning after, my sense is that our efforts have had an impact at the margin. In close races, Friends can make the difference. This 2019 election was not about the ABC and the results were not close in many of the electorates in which we campaigned. The big issues were tax, the economy and climate; and Morrison managed with great skill to shape a Presidential contest between himself and Bill Shorten. Apparently, against the expectations of the bookies and those created by opinion polls, there was a tide of support for the conservatives and this carried them back to government. News Corp, Clive Palmer and others played their part.

One small consolation is that the next couple of years may be very challenging in terms of economic management. The "headwinds" (China's slowing growth, US-China trade tensions, continuing Brexit mayhem) may become very brisk and promise of surpluses very difficult to deliver.

My hope is that everyone gets some R&R. Then, we will need to think carefully about our discussions and negotiations in the months to come. We may need to remind the government of their declaration of support for the ABC. Certainly, the government can be expected to press on with its \$84m cuts and may even have further cuts up its sleeve linked to the efficiency review sitting on the Minister's desk. The months ahead look challenging for the ABC and they will need our support.

Warmest wishes to all, Ed.Davis

DEVASTATED.

(letter sent to Saturday Paper not printed.)

With the re-election of this government and as a Public Broadcaster Friend, I wait with trepidation for the further cuts to our beloved ABC. The IPA is a financial backer of the LIBERAL party and wants the ABC/SBS broken up and sold. The Liberal Party at their conference in 2018 voted to do just that. The election was interfered with by another "Mining Baron" who paid millions to destroy our Democracy. Australians be careful what you wish for "you don't know, what you have till you Lose it."

Beverly Redshaw

'VERY GRIM': ABC STAFF BRACE FOR 'PAINFUL' JOB AND PROGRAMMING CUTS.

By Michael Lallo May 20, 2019 smh.com.au

ABC staff believe on-air disruption and "painful" job losses are inevitable after the Morrison government's return to power.

Some insiders claim ABC's news and current affairs divisions will be protected from the cuts, but others dispute this. Every department could feel the squeeze, including drama, comedy, children's, radio, iview, you name it said one person. "All that's left to cut is content" this could be the first time the audience sees this level of cuts to our programming.

Earlier this month, ABC managing director David Anderson claimed an \$84 million funding freeze – first flagged in the Coalition's 2018 budget-would trigger "inevitable cuts."

"Having been through a number of budget reductions to this point, I don't see how we can avoid staff cuts and I think disruption to our content," he told Radio National's Patricia Karvelas.

With the return of the Coalition government, we will resume discussions with the Minister about securing longer-term funding arrangements.

FEEDBACK FOR ABC FRIENDS FUTURE.

In a recent email from Ed.Davis, 21/5/2019 to the Editor he stated

We have a massive job to do to widen understanding of the importance of Public Broadcasting. We must talk to the ABC about this. Friends must continue its advocacy and work out how to deepen and strengthen the message and we need to think about how we bring more younger people into the fold. Of course, The main challenges faced by the ABC-how it attracts younger cohorts in this age of media disruption.

I am very keen to see a branch established in Penrith and think a forum is a good idea. My view would be to organise it for much later this year (Oct. or Nov.) or even early next year when we should have a better idea of the Morrison government's intentions towards the ABC. I am keen to be involved and I am sure ABC Alumni would be to.

We could also talk to interested academics and students at UWS and other Unis.

Ita has accepted our invitation to be Our Dinner Speaker at our annual event on Friday 6th September. It will be interesting to see how Ita and David Anderson go about their work.

Let's keep exploring what we can do to establish a new branch and to organise a forum.

BREAKING NEWS

MAYBE WE HAVE HAD A SLIGHT WIN!! THE MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORATE OF BRADFIELD PAUL FLETCHER IS THE NEW MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IPA.

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