

October, 2019.

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Next Meeting October 19th 2019. 10.am.

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

## Vice President's Report.

With the President on rest and recuperation leave here is my report on Sue's behalf. With a long list of apologies our September meeting became a little more informal than usual. President Sue gave her report on the ABCFNSW/ACT Annual Dinner with ABC Chairperson Ita Buttrose. After listening to Ita's speech and Q&A, we came away a little more confident that she is a good choice (despite the Captains Pick election process). Sue's report generated much interest, conversation and response. Overall, she confirmed that a good speaker, good company, good food and wine are the recipe for success. Well Done!

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting Saturday November 16th is our opportunity to review the 2019 year past and renew for the 2020 year ahead. The election of officers, President and the support team are essential to ensure a successful 2020. Please consider how **you can** be part of the team to sustain and retain our ABCFBM Branch in 2020.

The AGM Guest Speaker, ABC identity, Helen Grasswill, is a distinguished, high profile media and television journalist, author, editor and television program-maker and part of the team to produce Australian Story series including "The Gathering Storm" story. In 2005 Helen won a Walkley Award and also played a key role with formation of the ABC Alumni. This is our event of the year and you should not miss it.

Barry Redshaw Co-Vice President.

## Coming Events for you to Remember.

\*Northern Suburbs of Sydney Inaugural Meeting (new branch) Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 11am to 2pm at the Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street Chatswood. Guest Speakers Jonathan Holmes, former Media Watch presenter and former 4 Corners producer will discuss the ABC/AFP Raids and the importance of Media Freedom and Emeritus Professor Ed Davis NSW President & National Vice President, ABCF, will explore why we need to defend and maintain strong, independent broadcasting.

\*NSW/ACT 2019 Annual General Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October. Details to follow direct to members.

\*Blackheath Rhododendron Festival November 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteers needed.

\*ABCFBM Annual General Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup> 10am Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls. Guest Speaker Helen Grasswill 11.am.

\*ABCFBM Branch Christmas Party December 10<sup>th</sup> 6pm Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls. (2 for 1 menu or your choice if required.)

\*ABCFBM Branch first meeting for 2020 February 15<sup>th</sup> Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls 10am.

\*Western Suburbs of Sydney inaugural Meeting and ABC Friends' Forum (new branch Penrith based) Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 10am to 1pm at the Penrith City Library Theatre. Details to follow.

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## ABC to chase suburban and rural people in bid to broaden coverage.

NEWS OVERHAUL .Jennifer Duke SMH September 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

The ABC is overhauling its news coverage to focus on attracting viewers in outer suburban and regional city areas in a bid to grow its audiences amid a slowdown in traditional television viewership. ABC Chairperson Ita Buttrose and Managing Director David Anderson are among dozens of staff headed to Bankstown for a two-day planning workshop focusing on making content more relevant to average Australians. Head of News Gaven Morris said it was a “value for money proposition as Australians are tax payers and are paying for the ABC. Viewers are typically older Australians and, while we love those audiences and want to retain them as much as we can, we do need to look at an audience growth strategy.”

<http://todayspaper.smedia.com.au/smh/PrintArticle.aspx?doc=SMH%2F2019%2F09>

## ABC Friends welcomes new website Democracy’s watchdogs.

ABC Friends News.

A new website has been launched to showcase how investigative journalism benefits all Australians. Founder Dr. Bill Birnbauer said the website will feature well known ABC and other journalists, whose investigative skills have alerted the community to serious issues not revealed before in the public domain. Recent threats to Australian journalists and whistle blowers have reminded us just how important investigative journalism is to a well functioning democracy. ABC National President Margaret Reynolds welcomed the new website, which will make an important contribution to the campaign for Defending Media Freedom. You can subscribe.

<https://democracyswatchdogs.org/>

## Great to see Submissions from Friends.

### ABC Friends News

It is great to see so many ABC Friends taking time to write to their elected members and senators about Defending the Media Freedom.

## ABC Chairperson Ita Buttrose says AFP raids on Media Organisations damaged Australia’s Reputation.

ABC News Politics. By Political reporter Jade Macmillan posted 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

ABC Chairperson Ita Buttrose has warned the “privilege of democracy” has been taken for granted in Australia in light of police raids on Media Organisations. Ms. Buttrose also argued the press had been “Temporarily Blinded” by rhetoric on security and counter-terrorism and that the raids had damaged Australia’s international reputation.

“We have always supposed we have a free press. That belief has been shaken to the core in recent times. There is a perfect storm brewing in Australia—a combination of complacency and compliancy, declining trust in democratic institutions, including the media, and a swirl of misinformation and disinformation, no longer just on the dark edges of the digital world, but in the tools we use to navigate through our everyday lives.” Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton ordered the AFP to consider press freedom before investigating journalists but police would not rule out charging reporters who published stories based on leaked, highly classified information. Ms. Buttrose said many Australians were “deeply shocked and disturbed by the raid on the public broadcaster.”

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-10/ita-buttrose-democracy-privilege-for-granted>

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