

February, 2020.

Next Meeting February 15th 2020. 10.am.

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

President's Report

Our Blue Mountains Friends' stall at Glenbrook Australia Day Festival and Gnome Convention was a timely opportunity to highlight the vital role of Our ABC in emergency coverage, with our new banner "Our ABC! Your Local ABC Bushfire lifeline", proudly displayed on top of our tent. A new pull-up banner "Integrity and Truth in Reporting", generated much interest, with its long list of major ABC investigations. Photos of the event will be posted to our Blue Mountains Friends webpage and our Facebook page. We were visited by BM Mayor Mark Greenhill, Susan Templeman MP and Hon. Anthony Albanese who all showed great interest in our stall. A big Congratulations must go to Wendy Goldsmith for masterminding our new banners and petition. What a fantastic effort! Wendy is our newly appointed Market Organiser and we look forward to the Winter Magic Festival in Katoomba later this year. We'll keep you posted!

On behalf of the branch a big Thanks to our members who volunteered at Glenbrook. While it was a very challenging day, heat-wise, our commitment to our cause did not wilt!

Our first meeting of the year will be Saturday February 15th, 10am, at our usual venue, The Grand View Hotel at Wentworth Falls. We hope to see "old" and "new" faces, to kick off the year with a bang! Please consider joining us and perhaps staying for lunch for great food and Friends fellowship.

Sue Noske.

From the Editor's Desk.

Welcome back to our monthly Newsletters where we try to keep up with ABC news and events. We search far and wide to keep you informed and will include your news ideas, just contact us by email. 2020 has started with disasters and sad events we hope all is well with you. On the bright side, our first public outing to Defend Our ABC was the Glenbrook Gnome Convention, a great success!

Give That Dog A Bone.

SMH Aja Styles 19/1/2020.

Bluey fever is catching on in the United States with entertainment giant Disney saying how pleased it is that the American families are enjoying The Australian Children's Animation reaching over 16 million viewers. This includes the audience for live broadcast and replays within 7 days. An average U.S. audience of 8 to 20 million viewers is deemed a great success "we are pleased with how Bluey is performing. It's showing a lot of promise and we are excited for our audience to continue discovering it." Bluey (TV Series 2018) created by Joe Brumm with David McCormack, Melanie Zanetta, Charlotte Stent and Myf Warhurst follow the adventures of a lovable, inexhaustible six year old Blue Healer puppy who lives with her family.

It was interesting at the Gnome Convention where we displayed a large Bluey Poster and the number of family visits that came from a younger family member who sighted Bluey and sought a photograph.

Asia Pacific Region.

80 years of International Broadcasting especially in the Asia Pacific our region has given us an insight into other countries and their cultures. Australia is looked on as the "big brother" in the region and the government should fund Our ABC to keep up the Soft Power Determination that is so important especially now with all the upheaval in the world at this time.

Robbie Buck and Wendy Harmer.

Robbie and Wendy interviewed the Managing Director of Our ABC David Anderson, 702 ABC Mornings Breakfast 23/1/2020 and an mp3 was sent to us by Wendy Goldsmith. The discussion concentrated on ABC funding for Emergency Broadcasting and the fact that the extraordinary costs of production had to be drawn from the ever-shrinking ABC Budget at the expense of programming cuts. A five year plan will come out in March. The ABC have been pursuing the Communications Minister Hon. Paul Fletcher MP. seeking additional funding to replace the unexpected but essential coverage of these National Disasters. Friends of the ABC National have conducted a survey of the public for feedback on how they were effected by the Bush Fires. The results will be published soon in a Special edition of Update magazine

Where is the Minister?

ABC Friend National News. 15th January 2020 Jeff Waters.

Where is the Minister for Communications, The Hon. Paul Fletcher, as public and media accolades pour in for the ABC's tireless and life-saving service to the nation during the bushfire catastrophe?

Coalition members of parliament have no difficulty lavishing praise on the army, the police and the fire services but it sticks in their craw to admit let alone praise the crucial contribution of the ABC in emergency services. Yet these services are substantially unfunded: although emergency broadcasts in the first half of 1919/20 are reportedly almost twice those in the previous year, no extra funds are forthcoming. On the contrary, thanks to the so-called efficiency dividend less will be available. It's called "getting blood from a stone!"

"Surely on no issue is the Coalition Government more out of step with its supposed rural and regional base than in that of confidence in the indispensability and excellence of the ABC."

Angela Munro, ABC Friends Victoria

New Branch, Western Suburbs of Sydney (WSoS)

The Inaugural Meeting ABCFWSoS Branch will be held at Penrith City Council Library Theatre, 10am to 1pm, light lunch provided on Saturday 28th March, 2020. You are all invited to support and attend the meeting, bring friends and family to hear the Guest Speakers, John Cleary highly respected broadcaster and commentator on religion and ethics, Emeritus Professor Ed Davis, NSW/ACT President and National Vice President of ABC Friends and Mal Hewitt, former NSW/ACT President and National Vice President and Editor of Our ABC Friends Update Magazine, will explore why we need to defend and maintain strong Independent Public Broadcasting.

The first public opportunity to present the proposed new branch ABCF (WSoS) was strongly supported at the Glenbrook Gnome Convention on Australia Day. We responded to many requests and questions from the large crowd and handed out more than 200 promo flyers to those interested. Thanks to the ABCFBM Branch for the opportunity "to go public!" Visitors to the booth included Blue Mountains Mayor Mark Greenhill, Hon. Anthony Albanese MP. Leader of the Opposition and Susan Templeman Blue Mountains MP. who congratulated us on our progress and support of OUR ABC and invited selfie photographs of our booth and our supporters. They each took away our (WSoS) promo flyer. Maybe we will see them at our March 28th. Branch Launch?

The ABCFWSoS Branch Campaign will expand in mid February with established contacts, Council Libraries, educational establishments and local news media.

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