

APRIL, 2020.

Meetings POSTPONED until safe to do so.

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS National Coronavirus Hotline 1800020. Kids Helpline 1800551800
Lifeline 131 114

President's Report.

Greetings Friends. What a great turnout of Friends and potential Friends, we had at the Grandview Hotel last month. Very encouraging indeed for our first meeting of 2020. We had a very lively meeting with great prospects for a fantastic year ahead, including the much anticipated launch of the Western Suburbs of Sydney Branch. Alas, we were not to know that our day-to-day lives would soon be so compromised, in so many ways. ABC to the rescue, again: so critical in keeping us informed, educated and entertained, without distancing ourselves.

As you have been advised by email and on our website and on our Facebook page, we have suspended our regular meetings at Wentworth Falls, until further notice. However we can safely stay connected through our Facebook page (ABC Friends Blue Mountains Facebook) and our BM website (FABCNSWBM) and of course by phone.

This is a good opportunity to highlight and gratefully acknowledge the vital roles Carole Dent, as Facebook/twitter Editor and Chris Meaney, as our Webmaster/Media Editor. You will find lots of great information, photos, commentary, the latest news about our branch, plus our members own posts. Maybe you'd like to post a favourite ABC offering or a must see/ must-listen-to program or Facebook. We are sure to "like" it!

Also, please stay updated with ABC Friends Campaign news on the National website, where there's a wonderful big photo of our Western Sydney Warriors, Barry and Bev Redshaw, brandishing posters at the very successful Northern Suburbs Friends Rally last month.

A reminder that you can check out your current membership status on the National ABC Friends website, where you can renew your membership. Our membership secretary Janelle Clarke can assist as well.

We look forward to seeing you back at the Grandview, when life returns to some form of normality.

ABC is deemed by the government as an essential service. So where is the essential Funding for OUR ABC? This is why we must stay Friends!

Sue Noske 0421 020 610

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Just when we thought things could not be worse after drought and bushfires along comes the Coronavirus Pandemic to almost shut down the country into the near future. We will cope and recover! WE NEED YOU TO STAY SAFE AND WELL! These are very unusual and stressful times that we probably never thought we would have to deal with.

LATE BREAKING NEWS! NEW POLLING SHOWS "THE ABC IS TRUSTED MOST BY NEARLY TEN TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE AS THE MURDOCH PRESS."

Position Vacant-SBS Chairperson.

Applications are invited to fill the upcoming vacancy in the role of Chairperson of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Board. The application process will be conducted by an independent panel it will provide a report containing a short list to the Minister who will then make a recommendation to the Governor-General. The candidate must also have an understanding of the media environment and the

SBS Charter. (Best of Luck we wait with baited breath for a decision.)

SUGGESTION FOR BUILDING ABC FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP.

ABC Friends NSW/ACT and other States are considering the possibility and response for a review of how to send emails about our activities and events that have the potential to encourage supporters to become more engaged at local branch level. Early days but stay tuned we will keep you informed.

ABC'S NEW WESTERN SYDNEY NEWSROOM IN PARRAMATTA.

"About the ABC" Press Release 13th March 2020. Editors Sally Jackson/ABC News John Woodward.

At 10am on March 16th Cassie McCullah officially opened the ABC'S New Western Sydney Newsroom. The newsroom is equipped for video and audio news production and editing increasing capacity in Western Sydney with 12 staff, including two local community reporters who will focus on finding and telling the stories of Western Sydney's many diverse communities. "Connecting with more Australians and telling the key stories from their communities is a top priority of ABC News."- Gaven Morris, Director ABC News.

WESTERN SUBURBS OF SYDNEY NEW BRANCH (POSTPONED) REPORT.

In the week before the "Launch" of the ABC Friends Western Suburbs of Sydney branch she sank at her moorings! None the Less we drank the champagne and the good ship "WSoS" will return when it is safe to do so. We now know that it could be at least 6 months or longer.

On a serious note we were able to defer our guest speaker, newspaper advertising and venue hire. We had just completed our advertising and promotion schedule with many new interested community members, groups and contacts. We will be back just as enthusiastic, more knowledgeable and refreshed. Our thanks go to all who responded by becoming personally involved and the comments and thoughts of support that were published on line. The support of the ABC Friends NSW/ACT Committee was commendable. A big thanks to ABCFBM Branch members for their tremendous support.

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR ED DAVIS NSW/ACT PRESIDENT.

Email 18th March 2020.

"Supporting National ABCF Campaign. Dear Friends, just a quick note to ask all of you to assist in supporting the national campaign, drawing attention to the importance of the ABC and that it is properly funded. The campaign is going well and NationBuilder Administrator, Phil, tells me that there has been a great response from NSW. Let's keep going! Ways you can help include sharing posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The more social media noise the better!

Letters to your Federal MP. are also effective as are other ways you think up.

These are bizarre times. I hope you and your family and friends are healthy. Do take good care!

As you will know a number of NSW/ACT Friends events have been cancelled or put on hold. We will come roaring back once this virus is behind us.

Very Best Wishes, from the Bunker!" Ed Davis.

ABC FRIENDS BLUE MOUNTAINS BRANCH LETTER WRITERS GROUP.

You may not be aware that we have a Branch Letter Writers' Group, who meet briefly from time to time after our branch meetings. We have 6 to 8 members who regularly write letters, with some who have been successful in having their letter(s) published. We would like you to join us. The topics for your letters and publishers are your choice.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU WHEN OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS RESUME, MEANTIME TAKE CARE STAY WELL AND STAY SAFE!

Copyright 2020 All rights reserved FABCNWB. M.

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