

May, 2020.

Next Meeting (we wish we knew, we are missing you all!) 10.am. Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

President's Report.

Hello Friends,

We urge you to read the ABC Friends Submission to the Royal Commission into the National Disaster Arrangements. You'll find a link on our Blue Mountains Friends website.

The submission addresses "...the need for a National Emergency Communication Plan fully incorporating ABC Emergency Broadcasting expertise." The Overview also states that: The imperative to have a reliable and accessible emergency broadcasting system operating via robust infrastructure has never been more urgent. Putting in place a National emergency Communication Plan, incorporating ABC Emergency Broadcasting expertise which is able to provide both locally relevant information and national coverage, is a key element to improving response, resilience and adaption to changing climate conditions.

For Blue Mountains residents, this submission, written by Sue Pinnock, Committee Member ABCF National Inc. is of vital importance, relevance and urgency.

Throughout all crises, and now the Covid crisis, Our ABC has kept us informed, educated and engaged. Norman Swan keeps us updated with Coronacast and Casey Briggs breaks down the stats with his Antony Green-like touch screens. Great stuff.

Meanwhile, The ABC Friends National Site invites us all to "Take the Pledge"; I Value Our ABC: It is an essential service and I will take action to ensure that its funding is restored. (see website for more information)

To our faithful and patient Blue Mountains Friends, be assured: We'll meet again...don't know when, do no where. In the meantime, keep enjoying what our incomparable ABC has to offer, keep well and stay Friends. Sue Noske

P.S. I have a good collection of ABC shop DVDs, which I'm happy to loan out, if you have a DVD player. If you are interested, please contact me on 0421 020 610, and I can send you photos of the DVD titles for your perusal.

From the Editor's Desk.

We are sitting at our Cranebrook home office with the Blue Mountain escarpment in the distance, Bev at her computer, self at the desk thinking how our lives have changed from active to boring, thinking how our lives have changed so much in past weeks, worried about health, family and those less fortunate and what is ahead. We hope you and yours are safe and well! Any symptoms? get tested! We did, negative!

Where would we be without OUR ABC? As rusted on supporters of OUR ABC with us 24 hours a day and even ABC radio for our dog, Leo, when we are absent. We are, like you, missing our branch meetings and ABC Friends chatting over lunch. Please make use of the websites, ABOUT ABC for news, ABCFNSW/ACT for State news, ABCF National for National News and Views and ABCFBM for our Branch News and don't forget our Facebook page. We hope to be with you sooner than later. Stay safe and well!

WSoS New Branch. (in limbo!)

With the WSoS new branch having departed faster than the "Ruby Princess" for us its back to normal, even worse than normal, boring! We can but dream! We will be back when it is safe to do so and early responses following postponement suggested a likely return in 2020 Spring or 2021 March revisited.

We have to wait until we get the all clear to meet together according to Government regulations.

Meantime we have editorial agreement to submit our WSoS postponement report for the ABC Friends June Update magazine.

ABC Launches \$5m fund to provide urgent support for Australian creatives during Covid-19 crisis.

Go to about abc website then to media centre (posted 23rd April, 2020)

The ABC has launched a \$5m development fund to provide urgent and critical support to independent Australian producers and safe guard local content and creativity during these unprecedented times.

The ABC's Fresh Start Fund will support the sustainability and growth of Australia's production industry during the Covid-19 shutdown and supercharge the development of new Australian content for audiences across multiply genres, including drama, comedy, children's, factual, music and the arts. The public broadcaster is also acquiring additional Australian content for broadcast on ABC TV and iview to keep the nation informed, educated and entertained during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

ABC TV's golden run at New York awards.

Go to about abc then to media centre (posted 23rd April 2020)

ABC Factual series Old People's Home For 4 Year Olds Magical and Magical Land of Oz have won golds at the prestigious New York Festival TV and Film Awards, which recognized the world's most innovative and entertaining screen content. Old People's Home For 4 Year Olds, produced by Endemol Shine, scored Gold in the Social Issues documentary category at the awards.

Why is an essential service-like our ABC-being snubbed by the Communications Minister?

www.abcfriends.org.au/essential_service_snub

It is hard to understand why the Communications Minister, Paul Fletcher, can find \$50m for the regional commercial broadcasters, yet ignore the gross decline in ABC Funding.

While it is good to see the Minister recognize the challenges for the commercial broadcasting sector, it is hard to comprehend his reasoning for singling out only this sector but not providing matching funding to the public broadcaster, which has extensive outreach services to communities throughout the country.

Time for 'starved' ABC's funding to be restored.

www.abcfriends.org.au/latest_news_from_abc_friends 20th April, 2020.

Funding cuts and staff losses (1,000 already under this government, with 200 more set to follow with the Government \$84m further reduction in funding) continue despite its stellar performance in regional Australia on radio and television, in education, children's consequences, entertainment and giving Australians a voice.

Ranald Macdonald Former CEO and editor in chief of The Age.

Summer's Story. https://www.abcfriends.org.au/summers_story

Summer Gwynne is a Tasmanian Friend and the only Tasmanian member of the ABC Advisory Council established under the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983 (ABC Act). The function of the council is, either on its own initiative or at the request of the board, to advise on matters relating to the Corporation's broadcasting programs. She was appointed to the Advisory Council in January 2020.

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