

Next Meeting. As soon as possible, we are missing you all. 10am Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

## President's Report.

Dear Friends,  
We may be able to meet up again soon! The Grand View Hotel staff have advised that right now, only 10 can meet, but this limit will increase very soon. If the big dining room is available, we could really spread out. We could be meeting again on July 18<sup>th</sup> (this year!)

It's pleasing to see two photos of our stall at Glenbrook in January adorning the front page on our ABCF NSW/ACT site, with Bluey waving in the foreground!

In the latest news from ABC Friends National, we are encouraged to tell our MP and senators that, "Our ABC is essential for national renewal and recovery." A small sample email is provided, with tips for composing your own. Whilst Susan Templeman is an avowed ABC supporter, our senators need to hear from us too. Please check out the National Site and click on "News" for further details. SEE also the staggering graphs depicting the accumulative ABC Funding Cuts in the item by Randal Macdonald, ABC Friend Media Advisor.

Thanks Barry and Bev Redshaw for the extra Snippets this month. The Snippets are always enlightening and often shocking, particularly the Saturday Paper's pieces regarding the ever-present and powerful threats of the IPA and in contrast, "the Global Task Force for Public Media, serving in a time of a pandemic."

Hope you are all well and enjoying all that Our fabulous ABC has to offer. Maybe you have sent in a question for Norman Swan and the Coronacast. ESSENTIAL ABC! Hope to see you soon. Sue Noske

## From the Editor's Desk.

It seems we are slowly emerging and breaking out of isolation with care from the Covid-19 Pandemic but we should be very much aware of the high risk that is still out there and could revisit with another flare-up. The tragic intrusion of today's Covid-19 Pandemic has disrupted, even sadly destroyed life and existence in many forms. We hope that you and yours have stayed safe and well and will persevere and remain cautious while restricted and restrained until our normal life returns. The "Dreaded Virus" is still lurking out there! and branch meetings will return when it is safe to do so and we can meet and enjoy your company and friendship to SAVE OUR ABC.

We agree with the Walkley Award winning, veteran ABC journalist Quentin Dempster who said recently, "Our national broadcaster is the beating heart of Australia; it is trusted, it is reliable and yet it is under increasing threat. We must keep up the fight to protect it.

We need a strong and independent public broadcaster to hold authority without fear or favour, without the constant threat of defunding.

As we emerge from one of the worst Pandemic's in 100 years, we must decide what kind of society we want to rebuild. The ABC is there for us in a crisis, we must be there for it."

## NSoS is Fledgling in Full Flight.

Northern Suburbs of Sydney new branch hit the headlines with 2 new innovative and informative projects this month. Convenor, Janine Kitson, sent letters to prominent Federal MP's from all sides of government asking for responses to her questions. Questions asked were-

1. Why has the federal government given \$50 million funding to commercial broadcasters but not matched funding to the ABC's extensive services in remote, rural and regional Australia?
2. Why has the federal government given \$50 million for regional commercial broadcasters, yet still cuts OUR ABC's funding by \$84 million?

Only three responses were received: 1. Hon. Michelle Rowland, Shadow Minister for Communication.

2. Christina Keneally, Senator for NSW. 3. Sarah Hanson-Young, Senator for South Australia.

Note: The Hon. Paul Fletcher, Minister for Communications and others did not respond.

## NSo S “Zooms in on State of the ABC during the Covid-19 Crisis.”

On May 12, 2020 an informative and innovative online Zoom meeting featuring Matt Peacock, journalist, author, former staff-elected director of OUR ABC, Co-Convenor of the ABC Alumni and winner ABC Friends NSW/ACT broadcasting Award 2019.

The Nationwide event, limited to 100 participants was a resounding success.

### Classic Letter, the Saturday Paper. May 16-22, 2020.

“JONES PUT OUT TO PASTURE,” Chris Rowland, Paddington, Queensland.

Although I am loath to criticise the customary brilliance of The Saturday Paper’s Editorial, your premise “instead” is a non sequitur (“Radio silenced,”) Since Alan Jones “will appear on Sky News and write columns for The Daily Telegraph and the Australian then he will indeed, given the collective intelligence of his audience “go now to tend his vegetables.” If 2GB was a crime family, Jones would now be in bed with a horse’s head. Instead he wakes up each day to saddle up with braying donkeys.

## The Liberal Party and the Institute of Public Affairs. Who is Whose?

John Menadue-Pearls and Irritations. April 1, 2016. Greg Bailey

“Arguably the most influential think tank in Australia over the last decade, the Melbourne Institute of Public Affairs, serves good beer at its functions, so I have been told. Whilst it has always been significant in pushing right wing, neo-liberal agendas, it is only in the last decade, and really during the last period of Liberal Government, since October 2013, that it has emerged from the dim shadows into the brightness of political life. Previously it functioned mainly as a pressure group that would provide some kind of ‘intellectual’ substance to economic and lobbying interest of the large mining companies and banks that provided most of its financial support. It had already honed its lobbying skills and continues to make many submissions to parliamentary inquiries, influence on the political functioning of the country has become more direct.”

There is a very strong historical connection of the IPA with the Liberal Party both in and out of government. Whereas most other think tanks operate by canvassing ideas and putting in submissions to parliamentary inquiries, the IPA have their members in parliament. Most of their board members are either members of, or closely related, with the Liberal Party. What this means is that there is a direct interaction between both groups, with the IPA arguably developing policies and the Liberal government implementing them.

## WSoS New Branch (in remission)

Moving on from the WSoS demise now behind us, we are on the way back! ABCF National June Update Magazine includes the Post Mortem Report and contact details. Update will be in your mail soon, copies will be displayed in public places including council libraries in the suburbs of Greater Western Sydney and supplied to earlier contacts and supporters.

With Covid-19 Pandemic still around Penrith there seems little likelihood of an early return to the campaign launch.

## Australia’s \$17million plan for commercial TV in the Pacific.

SBS News. Podcast May 26 2020.

A \$17million initiative to air commercial Australian TV shows in some Pacific countries has been criticised as misguided and counterproductive. Communication Minister Paul Fletcher has said the government funding would be used to air shows such as House Rules and Master Chef on free-to-air stations in the Pacific.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the plan back in 2018. Jemima Garrett, co-convenor of the Supporters of Australian Broadcasting in Asia and the Pacific, urged the government to invest in unique Pacific content. Rich people renovator shows are not going to build a sense of community and she urged the government to invest in unique Pacific content.

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