

Next Meeting July 18th 2020 10am

Grand View Hotel Wentworth Falls.

President's Report.

Dear Friends

At Last! We have booked the Grand View Hotel for our Saturday 18th July, 10am till 12pm, in the large dining room (adjacent to verandah room where our last meetings have been held), where we can safely spread out. The social interaction will no doubt compensate for having to speak up a bit louder than usual!

Also, we are booked for lunch in the same room, where we can continue our conversations over lunch. How's that for convenience and safety. We hope you will stay for lunch, in support of the Grand View, and to experience the new bistro menu offered. (see the Grand View Facebook page for details)

Listening to Patricia Karvelas interviewing David Anderson 24/6/20, I was moved to text a message to the program, in protest against the axing of the flagship 7.45 am 15-minute bulletin, due to a 20% decline in audience. I asked about the majority 80%, many of whom are travelling to work, relying on that convenient daily chunk of news. Patricia kindly read it out along with four other comments on the ABC cuts and job losses.

The Northern Suburbs of Sydney branch needs our support. Their local member is Paul Fletcher, Minister for Communications. That says it ALL! It was galling to hear him say he "welcomed" the cuts to the ABC. As Quentin Dempster stated in response to the announcement of the loss of 250 jobs and funding cuts: "The cuts should have been reversed.... that the government at a time of national emergency would do this to the ABC, is really appalling". Anthony Albanese expressed similar outrage in his National Press Conference.

We will postpone our Rendezvous Raffle due to Covid contact concerns. When we raffle again, it will be a bumper raffle with your quality donations as prizes. (undisguised hint)

Looking forward to meeting up again,

Yours in OUR ABC

Sue Noske Phone 0421 020 610

News from the Editors Desk.

With Zoom meetings popular FABCNWS/ACT have made contact far and wide to discuss, review and inform. Bev and I have hooked up to several Zoom meetings that included the Northern Suburbs branch with Matt Peacock, Senator Tony Sheldon and Jodie McKay MP Life after Covid-19. Senator Tim Ayres, Demise of Regional Newspapers and Murdoch. Please take time to read the June 2020 Update magazine for a great source of ABC information and events nationwide. For the July 18th return meeting please bring along your thoughts and ideas for discussion in the planning of our future meetings and events.

WSoS New Branch Report.

A brief feedback and Post Mortem report can be found in the June 2020 Update, NSW News under the heading WSoS Branch "ABC Friends meet Julius Caesar" page 29/30. A brief conversation with President Ed Davis has agreement in principal to return to Inaugural Branch Meeting early 2021 when it is safe to do so and to allow for a new campaign. We need all the support we can get and we look to you to help with OUR 2021 Campaign and if the Pandemic revisits, then later in the year. Thanks to all for your help in 2020.

The Federal Government needs to listen to Ita.

Latest news from ABC Friends 10/6/2020.

As job cuts loom the Federal Government needs to listen to Chair of the ABC Board, Ita Buttrose's concerns about ABC funding levels, who said decreased funding levels for the ABC means the "task has been made harder... Our task has been made harder by the imposition of the three-year indexation freeze comes on top of a \$60 Million cut now embedded in our base." Despite Federal Government relying on their spin doctors to pretend the ABC is well funded, the ABC Board Chair herself has clearly identified the problem. She acknowledges that the ABC "will operate within our funding envelope," but clearly Australians recognise that staffing, services and local content will continue to suffer as several administrations have downgraded the importance of Public Broadcasting. It's time that voters around Australia showed that they do not expect partisan politics to dictate funding of the ABC, which is an essential service for all Australians.

ABC launches audio description service for blind or vision-impaired audiences.

About the ABC-media centre. 22/6/2020. John Woodward, ABC Communications Lead.

The popular ABC children's series Bluey is set to open up for its young fans who are blind or vision-impaired with the launch of ABC's audio description service this week. Bluey is one of more than a dozen ABC programs that will be audio described on the ABC's Main Channel, ABC ME, ABC Comedy, ABC Kids and ABC News. The ABC, as well as SBS, will broadcast around 14 hours of audio described content each week. The ABC's Managing Director, David Anderson welcomed the new service to the ABC, saying it would be a game-changer for the blind community.

ABC, SBS want tech payments.

SMH 22/6/2020 Zoe Somios.

Public broadcasters ABC and SBS both want direct payments from Google and Facebook for using their content between digital and news organisations. The move by the public broadcasters to seek a slice of the money the digital platforms are expected to pay news organisation companies, which argue the two public broadcasters shouldn't be compensated on advertising models and haven't been undermined by the platforms' dominance. Any portion of money from digital platforms could provide some relief to the broadcaster who is about to axe more staff under a 3 year funding freeze .

Calls for Journalist Protections.

Saturday Paper Karen Middleton 6/6/2020.

A year on from the AFP raids on the ABC and a News Corp journalist, the government is being asked to ensure the right of the media to protect sources. The federal government is being encouraged to consider special legislation to entrench protections for journalists, as concerns grow about a bill that would undermine current safeguards. The "New ASIO law is one more step towards a totalitarian state 13/5/2020 SMH" Under the cover of a global pandemic-Home Affair Minister Peter Dutton is trying to ram through wide ranging new powers that would let ASIO detain and question kids as young as 14, track your movements without oversight and prevent you from having a lawyer present if they deem them "disruptive". It could see Dutton and his department investigating journalists and activists on allegations of espionage just for doing their jobs. Already lawyers, experts and politicians across the spectrum have slammed Dutton's proposed changes, calling them `dangerous` and `highly intrusive`.

Stay safe, well and cautious while Covid-19 is still lurking out there. See you all on the July 18 meeting!!!

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