
President's report

Our first general meeting for 2021, and the first since February 2020, was a great kick-start to the year. It was great to meet up at last with “old” and new Friends. We paid homage to Margaret Foy, our esteemed, departed Friend. We discussed various items pertaining to our branch, and branch activities.

Barry and Bev Redshaw secured more volunteers for the launch of WSoS, a major Friends event later this month.

Our popular monthly raffle raised well over \$100. The first prize, a beautiful succulent plant arrangement, was crafted and donated by Jill Hogwood. Happily, 16 of the 27 attendees stayed for lunch to continue the fellowship.

Carole Dent, our Facebook manager, highly recommends that Blue Mountains Friends 'Like' and share the Facebook posts with their Facebook friends, thereby expanding our reach, (especially when your FB friends share with *their* friends, thus gathering its own momentum). To access our social media, just go to: www.facebook.com/fabcnswbm

A quote from the ABC Friends National 2021 Budget Submission reminds us of our mission of defending and protecting the ABC:

“Thirty years ago the ABC cost taxpayers just 8 cents a day. Unfortunately, in 2021 the ABC is allocated only 4 cents a day to work in a more complex and competitive environment with increasing technological challenges.”

We look forward to meeting up again on **Saturday, March 20th, 10am**, at our regular welcoming venue, the **Grand View Hotel** at Wentworth Falls. Please let us know if there is something you would like to be added to the agenda.

Sue Noske
0421 020 610

ABC Friends (Western Suburbs of Sydney) Inaugural Meeting

The ABC Friends Western Suburbs of Sydney New Branch Inaugural Meeting:

Saturday March 27th 2021 10.30am to 1.30pm

Penrith Senior Citizens Centre, 86 Station Street Penrith.

Onsite free parking.

10 minutes' walk from Penrith railway station.

Guest Speakers: Mr Alan Sunderland, ABC Editorial Director (2013-2019);
ABC Friends NSW&ACT President Cassandra Parkinson

Light Lunch provided.

Covid Safe precautions are essential and will apply.

To book, please ph: 0429 492 168 or email: WSoS@abcfriends.org.au

No cost involved!

We look forward to meeting with you and your friends.



Volunteering

Please consider donating your time and energy to manning stalls at **markets** during the year. The branch committee is looking into mounting stalls in the Mountains and Hawkesbury.

Community Groups

If you're aware of local community groups that would welcome talks in support of the ABC, please contact **Sue Noske** (0421 020 610).

GetUp! Movie: “Murdoch and Morrison vs The ABC”

If you've not had a chance to catch it yet, **Getup!'s short movie** is well worth catching.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4y5w0khvfc>

Juice Media: Honest Government Ads: “The ABC”; “The Newscorp Bargaining Code”

Juice Media is an independent production house that produces well-produced, highly incisive political satire. Their video on **ABC funding** (from Feb 2019) is (sadly) still relevant. Nonetheless, effective (and therapeutic).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pa8rSc2dung>

Their **recently-released** video on **the media bargaining code** (“**Honest Government Ad: The Newscorp Bargaining Code**”) is also worth seeking out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqj2z3QaRyU>

ABC Alumni Statement on the media bargaining code

Nick Franklin has passed on this release from ABC Alumni.



Statement from ABC Alumni Limited

Monday, 22 February 2021

ABC should not be taking any ad money from Google or Facebook.

Extract:

Although the ABC is now a media industry leader in Australia's online news industry there is an obvious risk of compromise to the ABC Charter from this precedent-setting commercial relationship.

Defunded by the Federal Government from the 2014 Budget, with the consequential destructive loss of original Australian programs and experienced program makers, plus the imposition of a vicious “indexation pause” from the 2018 Budget, the ABC has been significantly weakened in the range of quality content it can offer audiences. While many will be grateful for any respite revenue from Google, ABC Alumni, representing former ABC production staff and program makers, believes that this source of the revenue, ad spend, carries unacceptable risk.

The ABC has indicated its intention to apply any revenue earned from Google to regional services. The current Communications Minister, Paul Fletcher, has indicated the federal government would not withdraw any Google revenue from the ABC.

Noted. But the precedent set by the ABC entering into a contract to share Google's ad revenue will set the ABC on a commercial path and make it easier for any hostile federal government in future to demand the evolving digital economy will only soften up the ABC for privatisation, an objective pushed by those fundamentally hostile to a public broadcaster or “cybercaster”...

ABC Alumni believes the ABC's future viability must come from adequate untied funding from Australia's consolidated revenue as a public good, with no commercial agendas. It is ... a major contributor to media diversity in this country and should not be put at any risk in the current disruptive media industry environment.

Quentin Dempster

So, in closing -

Next ABC Friends (Blue Mountains) meeting: 10am, **Sat, March 20**, Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

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

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