

## President's report

Greetings Friends.

Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter, we will be out of Lockdown. On a positive note, you may have been able to catch up with ABC shows via the newly-expanded ABC Iview, or podcasts from the wide variety of radio programs and stations. It is quite amazing that, in view of the intensely painful cuts inflicted on the ABC's budget, our national broadcaster still manages to deliver quality information, entertainment and education within its various platforms. Tragically, as we are all too aware, many brilliant programs and staff have been sacrificed over time due to major budgetary constraints.

With a **Federal Election** possible in October this year (or around May next year), an **ABC Friends NSW/ACT sub-committee is busy devising an election campaign**, targeting marginal seats with swinging voters. As our Macquarie electorate is the most marginal seat in NSW, our Blue Mountains branch (with support from Western Suburbs of Sydney branch) will be calling on our members to participate, where possible, in our various activities. We must alert voters to the facts regarding the impact of the cuts to Our Essential ABC, and to the alarming and ever-present threats to the future of our National Treasure.

We will be highlighting aspects of the Friends' Election Campaign at future meetings. We urge you to attend your friendly branch meetings, to share your views on and concerns about Your ABC.

Blue Mountains Friends will once again be hosting a **stall at Glenbrook Rotary Markets, on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> August**, from 8am to 1pm. Also, we have secured a well-positioned stall at the **Springwood Spring Festival on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**, which is an all-day event. **Western Suburbs of Sydney ABC Friends** are planning to have a stall at the **Windsor Sunday markets in late August**. This market provides a good opportunity to talk to Hawkesbury folk (and others) about the Friends' mission. All the markets in which we participate, are important events in our calendar of branch activities. We get to talk to people of all ages, including families who are attracted by our child-size poster of Bluey! We have a variety of ABCF merchandise available, plus a petition to sign, demanding the restoration of funding to the ABC. So please come and say hello!

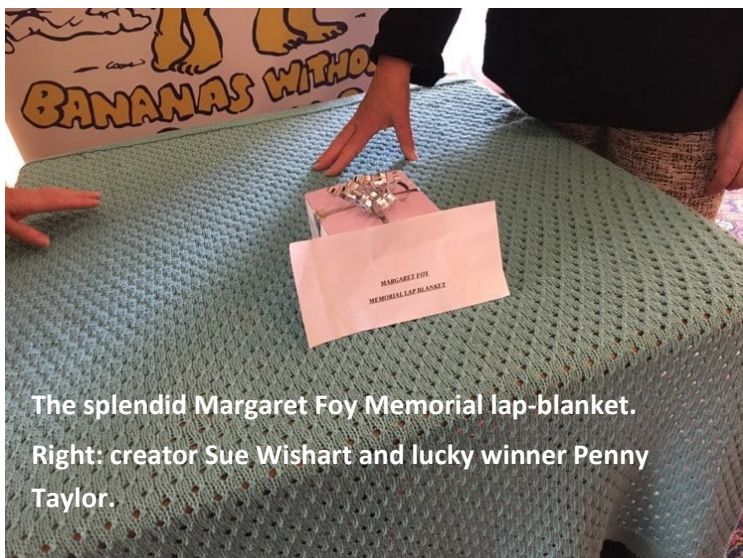
Our **monthly raffle** at each meeting generates much interest, fun and funds for our branch, and good fortune for our lucky winners. Our wonderful secretary Penny Tayler (who ensures that you receive your monthly newsletters, meeting agenda, minutes and other important emails), won a beautiful **Margaret Foy Memorial lap-blanket** at our May meeting. This special raffle prize was knitted and donated by Sue Wishart (see photo below). A big Thank You again to all our generous raffle donors, including Bob Thomas, who regularly donates high quality DVD sets.

**We meet on the third Saturday of each month, at the Grand View Hotel, 174 GWH, Wentworth Falls, 10am until 12pm.**

**We hope to see you on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month. Visitors are always welcome!**

Sue Noske

Enquiries: 0421 020 610



The splendid Margaret Foy Memorial lap-blanket.  
Right: creator Sue Wishart and lucky winner Penny  
Taylor.



## QR Codes for Markets.

Congratulations to Carole Dent for her creation of an **ABCFBM QR code** for use at our market stalls. We can now direct interested members of the public at our stalls to scan the code on their mobile phones, instantly connecting them to our website.

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## Remembering Joy Thomson AM

A moving memorial service for Joy was held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June at the Kihilla Conference Centre in Lawson. Her life of vision, service and achievement was celebrated. It seems apt to reproduce here her final published letter as an ABC Friend in support of the national broadcaster, which was printed in *The Sydney Morning Herald* in 2020.

*Dear Prime Minister, Scott Morrison,*

*I cannot believe that your government has not reversed the cuts to the ABC's budget after the wonderful job that they did covering the droughts, fires and floods. Climate change experts tell us we can expect more fires and disasters. What will we do without the ABC?*

*As well as being essential in times of crises, they can give us first rate entertainment when fully funded. Any person watching the brilliant "Operation Buffalo" would have to agree. It is based partly on truth and partly on fact. It is a wonderful show (see Iview) No commercial TV would have funded it.*

*When you strangle the ABC you must take responsibility for the loss of an institution which has served this nation, all ages, for many years. For people who want to see the ABC sold, they don't know what they have until they lose it.*

*Dear Prime Minister, please don't let your Government be remembered as the one that destroyed an incredibly valuable institution. You still have time to reverse your actions.*

*Joy Thomson  
Hazelbrook*

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## Letter writing group

Nick Franklin has consented to mentor members who wish to engage in the important activity of letter writing in support of the ABC. A short gathering will be held at the close of the July 17 meeting.

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## ABCF NSW State Conference, Sydney, Saturday, July 24

Sue Noske, Sue Bate and Ian Bate will be attending as Blue Mountains delegates; Bev and Barry Renshaw as Western Suburbs of Sydney delegates.

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## ABC Friends (Western Suburbs of Sydney )

Bev and Barry Redshaw, conveners of our sibling branch, report that the first meeting was well-attended and drew people from across the region.

The branch has adopted the motto "While we live, we grow".

The next meeting of the Western Suburbs of Sydney branch: Sunday, 25 July in the Heritage Room, Red Cow Hotel, Penrith (corner of Jane and Station Streets), 12 noon.

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**So, in closing— "ABC—FOR TRUTH, NOT PROFIT"** (a pithy new T shirt slogan from ABCF Victoria)

***Next meeting of ABCF (Blue Mountains): Saturday, July 17, 10am, at the Grand View Hotel, 174 Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls.***

*-Ian Bate, editor*

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