

President's report

Dear Friends,

The powerful and necessary messages depicted on the new ABCF flyers/leaflets (pictured below) are a stark reminder of how essential a **fully-funded, strong and secure ABC** is to all Australians. Please download these fantastic flyers and share them with your family, friends and acquaintances. We'll be handing out flyers and displaying these poster-sized images at markets leading up to Christmas and in the New Year. Whilst the November 20th Glenbrook Rotary Market has been cancelled, **we're hopeful that the Saturday December 4th Glenbrook Rotary Market will go ahead.** We may be participating in the Magpie Markets at Lawson and the Sunday Windsor market. These markets provide an opportunity to share the Friends' critical messages which include: the essential role of the ABC as an emergency broadcaster, the ABC as a source of reliable and trustworthy information, and the proven impartiality of the ABC. **Primarily, our task is to alert others to the persistent threat of even-further damaging funding cuts and the savage undermining of the ABC by openly anti-ABC organisations and individuals.**

On a lighter note, we've booked a branch **Christmas lunch** at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls, for Thursday 16th December at 12pm. The cost will be \$49 for two courses and \$59 for three courses, with all the traditional trimmings. vegetarian and GF options available. **Please RSVP to Penny Tayler by November 20th at: secretary@fabcnswbm.org.au or by phone on 0416 207 091.**

Our first meeting for 2022 will be on Saturday, 19th February. This will also be our previously postponed AGM, followed by our Guest Speaker, Jonathan Holmes. This occasion will be a timely and no- doubt inspiring start to the New Year, in light of the looming Federal Election. Hopefully by February, Covid restrictions will have lifted, allowing for a large audience for Jonathan at the Grand View Hotel.

A big thank-you to Ian Bate, our wonderful Newsletter Editor, for a monthly newsletter packed with links to diverse and enlightening items about the ever-present threats to our national broadcaster. (*Aw shucks—Ed.*)

Yours in Our ABC,

Sue Noske

(Email: susan02311@gmail.com or phone 0421 020 610)

New ABC posters and flyers for the impending Federal Election campaign

As the election approaches, The Institute of Public Affairs has already begun a renewed campaign of discrediting the ABC and demanding its privatisation (more later in this newsletter). ABC Friends has produced a new range of posters and flyers to remind people of the importance of a strong and viable national broadcaster.

They can be downloaded for free as pdf files in A3, A4 and A5 sizes from the Shop page on the ABC Friends National site: <https://abcfriends.myshopify.com/>





In addition to posters and flyers, ABC Friends has produced a **new campaign t-shirt**. They are \$25 each if ordered from the Friends' National site, **but \$15 (40% discount) to members if ordered through branches**. They come in sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL.



The IPA and the latest conservative attacks on the ABC

On Oct 25, The Institute of Public Affairs published the first episode in a series of five podcasts entitled **"Their ABC"**. The series promises to expose the ABC's bias through polling by the Menzies Institute and comment from News Corp/Sky regulars, "high profile" personages (eg, Tony Abbott) and "over a dozen Members of Parliament including Mark Latham, Nicolle Flint, Matt Canavan, James Paterson, Andrew Bragg and many, many more." A good example of the level of discourse in the episode is the characterisation of the ABC's pandemic coverage as "Covid 19 panic". The podcast had received 961 Youtube views as of time of writing (Nov 4).

You can enjoy ABC Alumni chairperson Jonathan Holmes's deft rebuttal here: <https://www.facebook.com/ABCAlumni/videos/ipa-watch-with-abc-alumni-jonathan-holmes/1207303763095290/>

In the week following the podcast launch, Murdoch organs amplified the hostile questioning of ABC funding in Senate Estimates by coalition politicians. Hardly coincidental.

You may be interested to read Jonathan Holmes's article regarding **the current conservative push to implement new "independent" mechanisms for handling complaints against the ABC**.

<https://abc alumni.net/2021/09/22/here-we-go-again/>

"It's Our ABC—a Research Report for GetUp! By Per Capita"

This worthy document was published in May 2020, and is useful reading when preparing to discuss the ABC with the ill-informed or wilfully misinformed (particularly those who may have been engrossed by the IPA podcasts). 60 pages—but very readable and with excellent graphics.

https://cdn.getup.org.au/2749-ABC_Report.pdf

So, in closing—the words of retiring RN host Fran Kelly, in response to Peter FitzSimon's question in the SMH about accusations of "left wing bias" at the ABC:

I've been dubbed "Climate Change Kelly", and we've been accused of having too many Indigenous stories on our program. But that's not a left wing bias. That is determination to make sure that we are covering the concerns and the policy impacts on all Australians, including the most vulnerable Australians. I think sometimes that's where people get confused calling it left wing. (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/in-one-word-fran-kelly-how-would-you-describe-barnaby-joyce-20211022-p592c3.html>)

Next meeting of ABCF (Blue Mountains): Annual General Meeting, Feb 19, 2022, Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls, 10 am. Guest Speaker: Jonathan Holmes (Chair, ABC Alumni)

-Ian Bate, editor

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