



President's Report

Greetings to all our Blue Mountains Friends and supporters!

The feedback from those Friends who were able to Zoom into **Jonathan Holmes' timely presentation (Our ABC: Why it's Vital to Our Australian Democracy)**, was very positive indeed. Jonathan fielded Friends' questions after his excellent and insightful presentation. A big thankyou to our fantastic Website and Zoom Manager Chris Meaney, who successfully orchestrated this event. You can still watch Jonathan's presentation, (with the ensuing Q and A) via the link on our ABC Friends Blue Mountains website. Carole Dent, our very dedicated ABC Friends Blue Mountains Facebook Manager, has transcribed the presentation, with Jonathan's assistance. A most obliging chap! A remarkable Carole! This transcription is also available on our website: fabcnswbm.org.au

With the **Federal Election looming**, a **Candidates Questionnaire** has been developed by NSW / ACT ABC Friends and ABC Alumni. Each of our six (at present count) Macquarie candidates will be asked to indicate their views on ABC issues, such as their level of support for a guarantee that ABC services will remain independent of government, free-to-air and free-to-access, and funded from consolidated revenue. **The candidates' responses to this questionnaire will form the basis of our handout leaflet: "Vote to Save Your ABC"**. We plan to letter-box our leaflets, both in the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury council areas of our Macquarie electorate. Hence, we'll need lots of **volunteers to letter-box in their local streets**. If you'd like to participate in this important campaign activity, please email Sue Noske at susan02311@gmail.com, or phone 0421 020 610.

Our first **Market at the Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon**, on Saturday 12th February provided an opportunity to talk to local residents about the crucial role of the ABC. Mark, a Hawkesbury resident shared his experience of the ABC with us: "I've been with the RFS for 20 years and ABC coverage was essential to ensure the community knew what was going on."

We'll be heading down to the Hawkesbury Showground again on the 9th April. We plan to hold a stall at the Windsor Sunday markets as well, in collaboration with our sister branch, Western Suburbs of Sydney (WSoS). As the Lindsay electorate is, like Macquarie, a marginal seat, our WSoS Friends will be campaigning strongly to highlight the vital importance of our ABC. Our Blue Mountains branch will be supporting WSoS Friends in their campaign activities and events (*see end of this edition*). We also plan to hold a stall at the **Glenbrook Rotary Markets, on the 2nd April**. This market attracts many Western Sydney residents.

At last, we will be physically returning this month to the **Grand View Hotel at Wentworth Falls, for our branch meeting, on the 19th March from 10am till 12pm**. We look forward to seeing you in person!

Sue Noske



ABC Friends Logo

You will no doubt have heard that last month in Senate Estimates, Senator Bragg used parliamentary privilege to

attack the ABC because ABC Friends has been using the ABC logo to defend our ABC. Senator Bragg claimed while questioning ABC managing director David Anderson regarding the Friends' incorporation of the ABC lissajous:

"I think that any fair-minded person would say that it is causing the organisation reputational damage because of the association and the ongoing link."

Yes, Friends, according to the eminently fair-minded Coalition Senator we apparently are all members of a scurrilous and disreputable organisation. Shame on us.



Nonetheless, ABC Friends has of course complied with the ABC's requests that ABCF discontinue incorporating the ABC logo in its materials.

Cassandra Parkinson (ABC Friends NSW & ACT President):

"ABC Friends National has agreed that ABC Friends will cease using the ABC lissajous (the curly bit) and will use an interim logo from now until the election.

Phil Evans, our NationBuilder Administrator, has replaced the logo on the national website and is steadily removing it from other places online. A longer-term logo can be considered after the election ...

"The national committee has requested that we advise our members and supporters that they should not use clothing or materials bearing the ABC logo when they are campaigning for the federal election on behalf of ABC Friends ... All branches that use the old logo on stationery or Facebook need to replace it ...

*"It's a shame that we have to go through this process ... **after this brief hiccup it's back to the main game.**"*

Regarding news coverage of Logo-gate, it seems that only The Australian (which, without any trace of self-consciousness, claims that ABCF "launches partisan attacks on the Coalition") has been particularly energised in this matter (headline: "Aunty's Friends Ditch ABC Logo").

The ABC's official position on use of its "curly" logo can be found here:

<https://help.abc.net.au/hc/en-us/articles/4416663769999-Can-ABC-content-be-used-in-Political-Advertising-and-Political-Messaging->

Official YouTube video:

"In an emergency, you really need your ABC. Don't let them undermine it!"

ABC Friends (NSW and ACT) has commissioned and authorised a video that informs people of the absolute necessity of a viable ABC in times of emergencies.

Here is the Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK3th3j1rzg>



Authorised by M Wheely, ABC Friends NSW and ACT

So, in closing ...

Let the new official ABCF T-shirt make its succinct statement...



Also—congratulations to Sue Noske for her smooth hosting of the Jonathan Holmes Zoom event!



NB: the new T shirt must be worn at pre-polling and other specific election campaigning activities. The current T-shirt is fine for general wear and events such as market stalls until such time as we are disseminating campaign materials.

Next meeting of ABCF Blue Mountains: 19th March, 10am till 12pm, Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

★ You may also be interested in this event organised by ABCF-Western Suburbs of Sydney:
LINDSAY ELECTORATE "MEET THE CANDIDATES" FORUM. Saturday, 9th April 2022, 10am-12 noon, in the Penrith City Library Theatre, Penrith Council complex. Contact WSoS@abcfriends.net.au if you can assist.
-Ian Bate, editor

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

Copyright © 2022. All rights reserved fabcnsw.org.au

Website: www.fabcnswbm.org.au

Editorial contact: sribate@tpg.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fabcnswbm>