



President's Report

Greetings Friends and Supporters.

Our branch is now in full campaign mode, as our dedicated Friends favour thousands of letterboxes with our campaign flyers, both in the Blue Mountains and in the Hawkesbury. Our flyers highlight the essential role of the ABC as emergency broadcaster, whether it's alerts about bushfires in the Blue Mountains, or updates on floods in the Hawkesbury. The overriding message for Macquarie voters is:

Saving the ABC Saves Lives.

To progress to the next stage of our campaign, we urgently need **more volunteers** to hand out "Vote to Save Your ABC" flyers over the next two weeks at the pre-polling voting centres listed below, starting on **Monday 9th May through to Friday 20th May**.

Katoomba PPVC at the Katoomba Civic Centre.

Springwood PPVC at Springwood Hub.

Richmond PPVC at the Richmond School of Arts, 26 West Market St.

Windsor PPVC at the Deerubbin Centre, 300 George St.

The centres are open 8.30am- 5.30pm Monday to Friday (2 weeks) and 9am-4pm Saturday 14th.

Our special campaign t-shirts with the new ABC Friends logo are free for volunteers. These t-shirts were featured in our April Newsletter, with strong messages: "Saving the ABC Saves Lives" and "Your ABC: Trusted, Valued, Endangered".

Election Day falls on 21st May, which is also our regular branch meeting day. We will **NOT** be meeting at the Grand View Hotel this month, as many of us will be at our local polling booths, handing out the "Vote to Save Your ABC" flyers. There are crucial polling booths in the Hawkesbury, where we hope to be present, volunteers permitting.

If you would like to participate in any of our campaign activities, please contact Sue Noske on 0421 020 610, or email susano2311@gmail.com

Yours in Our ABC
Sue Noske

Next branch meeting: June 18th 2022

The Liberal Democrats and the ABC

In the process of assessing candidates in Macquarie for our branch's voting guide (see page 2), research was undertaken regarding the respective parties' stated policies, voting records and public statements regarding the ABC and SBS. This was in addition to assessing replies to our candidate questionnaire.

The Liberal Democrats' "Freedom Manifesto" (<https://www.ldp.org.au/freedom>) is their party's suite of policies for the 2022 election. The "Debt and Deficit" section contains the following policy on funding of public broadcasting, which is presented here verbatim for your edification:

Defund the ABC & SBS. Let the ABC & SBS pay their own way through advertising, subscriptions and donations from their adoring fans.

It should be noted that no acknowledgement of our candidate questionnaire was received from the Liberal-Democrat candidate, James Jackson.

Blue Mountains Branch's "Vote to Support Your ABC" voting guide

The process for assessing each candidate's level of support for the ABC is explained on the previous page.

None of the candidates in the "No support or no response" category responded to requests for them to participate in the questionnaire. Policy statements regarding funding of public broadcasting could not be found for the United Australia Party nor the Informed Medical Options Party. The voting record of UAP's Craig Kelly regarding the ABC (in his previous life as a Liberal MP) was considered in the assessment process:

https://theyvoteforyou.org.au/people/representatives/hughes/craig_kelly/policies/56

The Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate has not been included in the guide as his candidature was confirmed after our deadline for reply. However, the voting records of One Nation senators in regard to ABC/SBS funding can be found at the "They Vote for You" website:

https://theyvoteforyou.org.au/people/senate/queensland/pauline_hanson/policies/56

https://theyvoteforyou.org.au/people/senate/queensland/malcolm_roberts/policies/56

ELECTION 2022 Vote to support our ABC

This table rates candidates in the **electorate of Macquarie** on their support for a strong, well-funded and independent ABC.

STRONG support for the ABC	TEMPLEMAN , Susan (ALP) HICKEY , Tony (The Greens)
MODERATE support For the ABC	KEIGHTLEY , Greg (Animal Justice Party)
NO support or no response	RICHARDS , Sarah (Liberal Party) JACKSON , James (Liberal Democratic Party) EVANS , Nicole (United Australia Party) PALMER , Michelle (Informed Medical Options Party)

A strong public broadcaster is essential for a healthy democracy. But the ABC's funding has been slashed and its independence has been undermined.

Vote for a candidate who supports our ABC.

Rating based on surveys of candidates, party policies and performance on the ABC; candidates' public statements and voting records (where relevant) on ABC issues.

ABC
Friends
NSW & ACT

ABC
Alumni

So, in closing ... ABC Friends spreading the good message—with the invaluable assistance of Jesse the Blue Heeler—at Lawson Markets in April (a great day, with a great deal of support from visitors!)



Next meeting of ABCF Blue Mountains: Saturday, 18th June, 10am till 12pm, Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls.

-Ian Bate, editor

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