

President's Report

Greetings Friends and Supporters!

Our Blue Mountains ABC Friends branch members will be meeting next on **Tuesday 11th April at our regular venue, the Grand View Hotel** on the Great Western Highway at Wentworth Falls.

After a short branch meeting commencing at **10.30am** our **Friend Mike Honey will speak to us at 11.00am on the topic of the ABC's "Golden Period", the 1970s to the 1980s**, (as described by Mike).

To quote Mike:

In those days the ABC had enough money to produce all programmes internally and broke these down into approximately five different genres: TV Features, TV Drama, Comedy, Education, News and Current Affairs.....sadly, today, with a huge cut in funds, the ABC can no longer afford to produce all its programming internally and must either buy products to broadcast or commission shows to be produced externally. This has resulted in a decline in programme and technical quality and the ABC is no longer seen as a place to receive much in the way of creative training.

As a consequence, it probably doesn't attract the kind of personnel it did back in the Golden Era.

Mike will also offer his reflections on several people with whom he had the privilege of working at the ABC and who he considers to have made significant contributions to national public broadcasting.

We hope you can join us in what promises to be an entertaining and informative "insider-perspective" presentation. You are welcome to bring interested friends along. Please consider staying on for lunch to enjoy great food and conversation amongst your fellow ABC Friends.

Our next "marketing opportunity" for promoting the aims and activities of our branch will be **Sunday 16th April at the Lawson Magpie Market**. We are waiting to hear back from the Katoomba Winter Magic Festival organisers regarding holding a stall there.

Our Book Library is now a regular and popular feature of our meetings. There are many fantastic titles to choose from, mostly with political and/or media-based themes. We welcome relevant book donations from our members.

Hoping to see you at the Grand View for this special event!

Sue Noske

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Our next branch meeting: Tuesday, 11th April, The Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls, at 10.30am, followed by an address by Mike Honey.

-Ian Bate, editor

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