

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Friends and supporters!

Next Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, our Branch members will be meeting in the Grace Tooth Room at the Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 9 New Street Lawson. Our meeting starts at 10am and concludes at 12pm, with a tea/coffee break around 11am. There'll be a big ABC Friends poster outside to guide you. All of our remaining Branch Meetings will be held in this room this year. (It's larger than the Joy Anderson Room where we met in February).



After the meeting, you may wish to re-group for lunch at 12.30pm, at the Lawson Chinese Restaurant, Lawson Bowling Club, 2 Loftus St Lawson.

Items to be discussed at our 13<sup>th</sup> April Branch Meeting include Markets for 2024, planning an ABC Friends special event in Parramatta, the new ABC chair Kim Williams and current issues pertaining to Our ABC.

Our popular raffle offers great prizes: tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Save those \$5 notes! Also, we have for sale a number of classic ABC Friends Michael Leunig cartoon t-shirts in various sizes, for only \$10 each: *"Imagine Life Without Your ABC"*.



Our Book Library offers many fantastic titles, for your entertainment and enlightenment! Donations of publications, with media /politics themes will be gladly received.

Our first Coffee Morning Meeting (at Springwood Sports Club) attracted 16 Friends and prospective Friends. Good fellowship (and coffee) was enjoyed by all! Our next Coffee Morning will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, at Katoomba RSL Club, at 10am.

Carole Dent has written a wonderful citation on Dan Bouchier, our Branch Nomination for the ABC Friends Excellence In Broadcasting Awards. It is included in this Newsletter. To attend this event, go to the ABC Friends NSW /ACT site, and book your tickets.

We hope you can join us next Saturday!

**Sue Noske**

Enquiries: 0421 020 610

## Spreading the word at Glenbrook

Some useful conversations were had with people at our stall at Glenbrook Markets in March. For people who are politically engaged there seems to be growing concern about the state of reportage in commercial media and an appreciation of the ABC's role in Australian democracy.

We have prepared a small membership kit to be handed out at markets. It contains a "Join ABC Friends" information sheet, membership and donation forms and details of the Friends' "Truth in Political Advertising" campaign.

We have also invested in a new gazebo for market events. Tomorrow the world!





ABC Friends is thrilled to present the **2024 Excellence in Broadcasting Award** with special guest **The Hon. Tony Burke**, Federal Minister for the Arts.

The award is an opportunity to honour the the work of an exemplary ABC employee, and this year we have added a second category for a program or series.

We hope you can join us for this special event.

**Time:** Saturday, 4 May 2024, 3 - 6pm.

**Venue:** The Henry Carmichael Theatre, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, which is an accessible venue.

**Entry Cost** - \$5 members/\$10 non-members. Light refreshments will be provided.

<https://events.humanitix.com/abc-excellence-awards>



## Dan Bouchier

ABC Friends Blue Mountains Branch nominates **Dan Bouchier** for the ABC Friends Excellence Awards 2024, for his outstanding leadership of the ABC reporting of the Voice to Parliament as ABC Referendum/Voice Correspondent.

He provided balanced coverage – even while receiving threats and abuse for his coverage, all while navigating the complexities and challenges which arose as part of the national debate.

Dan's impressive curriculum vitae can be viewed at:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/people/dan-bouchier/8127456>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan\\_Bouchier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Bouchier)

Thanks to Carole Dent for compiling and forwarding this nomination.



ABC Alumni regularly publish articles on their website. These are freely available to the general public and are highly recommended for the issues they explore and the insights they provide.

Some recent titles:

- ABC Alumni Webinar with Gavin Fang, ABC Editorial Director and Quentin Dempster (30/3/24)
- The evidence: dramatic drop in new ABC screen content confirmed (1/3/24)
- ABC Alumni Ltd Statement On The Appointment Of Kim Williams To Chair The ABC Board (24/1/24)
- Challenges Facing ABC Drama (3/11/23)
- Antoinette Lattouf and the ABC's independence (20/1/24)

Go to: <https://www.abcalumni.au/articles>



You may be interested in following the work of the Public Media Alliance, an international association of public service broadcasters. **You can subscribe to its regular, free email newsletter and podcast.**

<https://www.publicmediaalliance.org/about-us/>

From the Alliance's website:

*"We are a non-profit organisation funded by over fifty public media organisations, including the BBC, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF), the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) and Thai PBS.*

*"Founded in 1945, the organisation today has a global membership, offering members an equal opportunity to exchange ideas, views, and best practice in public media. Our vision is a world where the public can continue to access free, independent, engaging and representative national and international media wherever they are ...*

*"PMA's most important role is advocacy. We support and promote the values of public media and the necessity of press freedom as challenges like media capture, political interference in the media, and disinformation grow worldwide. We also produce a podcast, [Media Uncovered](#), which explores topical issues and innovations from the world of public service media and press freedom."*



## A reminder of a couple of important campaigns being run by ABC Friends



### Support truth in political advertising NOW

In the last few years there's been a massive increase in misinformation and disinformation. We saw the damage disinformation can do during the recent referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

Disinformation is unacceptable. It destroys trust, it undermines democracy and it damages our social fabric.

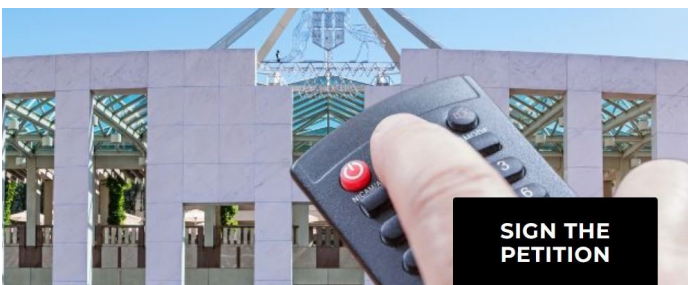
We must do everything we can to stamp out lies and fake news in political advertising and the first step is to adopt legislation that bans inaccurate or misleading ads during election campaigns.

Let's fight this scourge and protect the integrity of our political system.

**Please support our campaign**

<https://www.abcfriends.net.au/truth>

### Tell the government: fund more original content on the ABC



<https://www.abcfriends.net.au/content>

The ABC has a lost \$1 billion in funding since 2013. That's had a terrible impact on the creation of original screen content in areas other than news and current affairs according to a [new report by Michael Ward](#).

Children's programs, drama, religion, arts, entertainment, factual and sports programming have all suffered.

In 2013-14 the ABC screened 1060 hours of original content on its main channel. By 2022-23 that had declined to 630 hours, a drop of 41%.\*

We need more original Australian drama.

We need more children's TV, more arts and science programs, more history and other factual programs. If the ABC doesn't produce them – who will?

**The ABC is part of our cultural heartland. It must be fully funded to tell our stories.**

Help us persuade the federal government to give much more support to the ABC. Make your voice heard.

**Please sign our petition calling on the Albanese government to fully fund the ABC and support Australian culture.**

\*21% across all the ABC's platforms

<https://www.abcfriends.net.au/content>

### Any chance they get ...

A fragrant potpourri of recent anti-ABC articles in Murdoch's proud flagship, [The Australian](#).

There is no need to delve beyond the headlines—the articles contain little more substance. Hypocrisy, much?

MARCH 30, 2024

INQUIRER

**ABC journalists lost in 'moral chasm' on Israel**  
An ABC staff memo to management complaining about the broadcaster's 'pro-Israel bias' offers a grim (hilarious?) insight into the fried minds of the woke.

By BRENDAN O'NEILL

LETTERS

**ABC just tip of the iceberg of left's fall into 'moral chasm'**

Facts that are fundamental to the Gaza conflict are regularly ignored by the media and feed into the pro-Hamas propaganda campaign supported by Iran and Qatar.

MARCH 31, 2024

MEDIA

**Deliberate twisting of facts for political gain is a scourge on modern media**

An ABC apology to entrepreneur Dick Smith this week proved its fact check unit is just as ready as US media to twist its reporting to hurt conservative political causes.

By CHRIS MITCHELL

APRIL 6, 2024

COMMENTARY

**Media Watch Dog: ABC's Sally Sara tough on Israelis, soft on pro-Palestinians**

ABC Chair Kim Williams wants ABC journos to be impartial and fair-minded. Two interviews indicate he faces a difficult role in reforming the culture that pervades the Conservative Free Zone that is the ABC.

By GERARD HENDERSON

**Our next branch meeting:** Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, the Grace Tooth Room at the Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 9 New Street Lawson.

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

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