ABC Friends Blue Mountains

Newsletter

2024— No 4
AUGUST

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Friends and supporters!

Our next branch meeting will be on Saturday 10th August at the Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 9 New St, Lawson at 10.00am. We are very fortunate to have procured a compelling and engaging guest speaker, Ken Enderby, addressing our meeting. Ian Bate details Ken's creds later in this newsletter.

Keep Saturday 9th November free for our AGM at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts. Our very special guest speaker will be ABC icon Quentin Dempster. Quentin worked at the ABC for 30 years (1984-2014) as a political and investigative reporter, TV current affairs presenter and interviewer. Currently, he is an esteemed member of ABC Alumni. Quentin has visited Blue Mountains Friends on several occasions over the years. His visit in November will be a highlight for our branch this year.

Springwood Spring Festival on the 7th September is a big all-day event, and once again we have a well-located stall in Macquarie Road. If you're heading there, look out for our banner: "ABC: When Truth Matters". We'll have ABC Friends merchandise available (Leunig T-shirts for example) at discounted prices!

The ABC has secured a very impressive (and record!) 51 Logie nominations over 23 categories. By voting, ABC Friends increase the chances of the ABC receiving industry and public recognition for many fantastic ABC productions. It takes about 10 easy minutes to vote. Voting closes on the 17th August. Here's the link!

https://vote.tvweeklogies.com.au/

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Coffee Mornings

We have held three of our bi-monthly (and well-attended) coffee mornings so far this year. They are an opportunity to meet informally, exchange news and views, and simply keep in touch. The next coffee morning is at 10.00 am, Sat, 14th September at Springwood Sports Club. (note the change of venue from "somewhere in Bathurst" as announced in the February newsletter.)

ABC Alumni

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:

- In Celebration of Laura Tingle (4/6/2024)
- Whatever Happened to the Arts on ABC News? (Edited version of Anne Marie Nicholson's address to ABCF Central Coast) (15/5/2024))
- The ABC's Awful Meta/Facebook Dilemma (8/5/2024)

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

BREAKING NEWS: ABC Friends restructures for strong future

ABC Friends National's website announced on July 24th that our organization is now (as of June 13) a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). Previously the Friends existed as an incorporated association.

The online post states: "A CLG is a unique legal structure commonly used by non-profit organisations, professional associations, and clubs. CLGs provide a legal framework for these organisations to manage their activities effectively."

President Cassandra Parkinson says that CLG status "will enable ABC Friends to more easily access various benefits such as tax exemptions and eligibility for grants. It is also more appropriate for an organisation with national coverage to operate as a company rather than an incorporated association."

For more details regarding the initial Board of Directors, go to

https://www.abcfriends.net.au/restructure_for_strong_future

Guest speaker at our next (Aug 10th) General Meeting: Ken Enderby

Ken Enderby is President of Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay, a dynamic community-based group. He will share his insights about effective grass-roots activism, successful letters-to-the-editor writing (he even gets letters into The Australian!), the importance of the ABC in honest discourse about global heating and the need for climate action. He will also be pleased to take any questions about household energy-saving strategies and EVs.

Ken has been a campaigner for peace, human rights and economic development for 45 years, working on projects in Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Up until his retirement in 2019, he was head teacher of Career Pathways at Bankstown TAFE, where he taught history, economics and politics. Since then, he has focused his attention on climate change and has been president of Climate Action Burwood-Canada Bay since 2021. He is also a mentor with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project and a facilitator with Climate for Change.

Guest Speaker for our AGM on November 9th: Quentin Dempster

Quentin Dempster worked at the ABC for 30 years (1984-2014) as a political and investigative reporter, TV current affairs presenter and interviewer. In 1986 he wrote and produced *The Sunshine System*, a television documentary about institutionalised corruption in Queensland. Before joining the ABC, he was chief political reporter and columnist for the Brisbane Telegraph. Quentin is a former staff-elected director of the ABC (1992-1996) and former chairman of The Walkley Foundation. He has written three books: *Honest Cops* (1992), *Whistleblowers* (1997) and *Death Struggle – how political malice and boardroom power plays are killing the ABC* (2000). In 1992 Quentin was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to journalism and current affairs.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

You'll help promote public broadcasting, defeat the Murdoch agenda and … YOU could WIN a BEAUTIFUL NEW HYBRID CAR!

https://vote.tvweeklogies.com.au/

Our next branch meeting: 10 a.m., Saturday, August 10th at the Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 9 New Street, Lawson.

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