

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Friends and Supporters!

This will be our final newsletter for 2024. Please save *Saturday 9th November* for our AGM and special guest speaker, ABC icon Quentin Dempster, at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts. Quentin will be speaking to us about the challenges facing the ABC:

- the persistent and dangerous threats to Our ABC, in particular from News Corp organs, and the consequent threat to our democracy;
- the impact of 10 years of funding cuts to the ABC;
- the "...undermining of the ABC, both politically and psychologically." (quote from Quentin's email to ABC Friends: "The ABC is suffering", 22/5/24);
- ABC management's role in supporting its staff.

Quentin will address our group at 11.00am, following our AGM at 10.00am. He will happily engage in a Q and A after his presentation. Please invite your friends to this sure-to-be stimulating event!

Another upcoming event: NSW / ACT Friends will present a webinar titled, "Truth in Political Advertising", on Tuesday 15th October, at 6pm. Details can be viewed on the ABC Friends website, where you can RSVP to this event.

https://www.abcfriends.net.au/truth_webinar2024

Also on the ABC Friends website you can sign a petition: "I want an ABC that is funded to produce high quality news, current affairs and original Australian content. I call on all parliamentarians and candidates to support a fully-funded ABC" (see next page for link).

Our final market stall for the year will be Lawson's Magpie Market on Sunday 20th October, situated in the grounds of Lawson Public School. We'll have ABC Friends merchandise for sale at reduced prices. (Dare we suggest "Christmas Shopping?")

As we found at the Springwood Festival last month, our ABC Friends bumper stickers (eg "ABC: When Truth Matters") are very popular, and there are many people keen to receive our newsletter.

(Editor's note: many people in their twenties and thirties were enthusiastic about the 2JJJ stickers, suggesting that the popularity of the station is less calamitous than the usual ABC-knockers claim!)

Friends attending our August branch meeting were entertained and enlightened by our guest speaker, Ken Enderby. Ian Bate will elaborate on Ken's most informative address later in the newsletter.

Please check out our Blue Mountains ABC Friends branch website and Facebook page for regular updates on our activities and past newsletters.

We hope you can make it along to our final branch meeting, this coming Saturday, 12th October, at the Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 9 New Street Lawson, at 10.00am. Our regular raffle offers great prizes and is an important fundraiser for our branch. Friends of ABC Friends are most welcome to join us!

Yours in Our ABC

Sue Noske

Phone: 0421 020 610



SPRINGWOOD FESTIVAL, Saturday 7th September. Bob Thomas, Carole Dent and Sue Noske man the ABC Friends (Blue Mountains) stall.

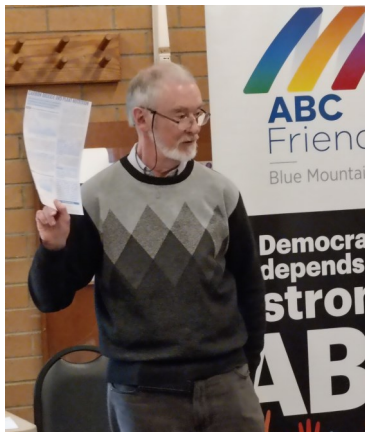
August Guest Speaker: Ken Enderby

The President of Climate Action, Burwood and Canada Bay, Ken Enderby, was guest speaker at our August meeting. His community group is a highly energetic body which concentrates on community education about grassroots-level climate action.

As well as enthusiastically debunking myths about energy sources – renewables, fossil fuel, nuclear – Ken stressed the need for a strong ABC to counter the mendacious climate-change-denialism propagated by certain major media outlets.

He began his talk by displaying a paid ad (carried in The Australian that morning) from the IPA-linked (and innocuously titled) Climate Study Group which continues to assert that there is no scientific consensus on human-induced global heating. He believes that the ABC is essential in countering such disinformation

Ken has enjoyed considerable success in having his letters accepted by major newspapers – even in NewsCorp organs. In September he had no less than 19 letters accepted for publication in major dailies: The Telegraph, The Australian, The Australian Financial Review and the SMH.



His tips for letter-writing success (no hard and fast rules):

- Adapt your style according to the publication. For a tabloid such as The Telegraph, he advises a “folksy” style that can involve a personal anecdote (Eg, “Without the ABC’s emergency broadcast our lives would have been in danger”) and maybe a touch of humour. The SMH and AFR favour fact-supported assertions and generally a more formal tone.
- Be direct and economical with language—be aware of word limits.
- Write and send your letter as soon as you can—preferably the same day as the item to which you are responding is published in the paper.
- If you are writing to refute an op-ed, it can be useful to begin with a (perhaps superficial) point

on which you may seem to agree (for example, “G*rard H*nd*rs*n is correct when he says that ABC current affairs is suffering; however it is not due to hysterical Marxism as he claims...”)

- Make your case in (say) three points maximum.
- A strong close, such as a strong statement, or perhaps a rhetorical question.

Coffee Mornings

Our regular bi-monthly mornings have continued to draw a pleasing attendance. They are an opportunity to meet informally, exchange news and views, and simply keep in touch... and welcome some new members!



The September coffee morning at Springwood Sports Club—great to see some new faces—and old ones of course! (Now when I say *old ...*)

Vale Tim Bowden

Much loved and respected ABC journalist and presenter Tim Bowden passed away on September 1.

Mike Carlton has composed a moving tribute in memory of Tim. There is a link below.



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:

- A Tribute to Tim Bowden (Mike Carlton)
- After Anderson: Challenges for a new MD
- The Americanization of Australia: how we’re rapidly losing our cultural sovereignty

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



Now more than ever we need a fully-funded public broadcaster... The ABC is a precious national asset.

Please sign the petition calling on all politicians and candidates to support a fully funded ABC.

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

ABC Friends (NSW and ACT) AGM

WHEN: Sat, November 16, 2024 from 2:00pm - 4pm.

VENUE: Henry Carmichael Theatre, Sydney Mechanical School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney, NSW. 2000.

GUEST SPEAKER: Helen Grasswill, a Walkley, Logies and Human Rights award-winning journalist. Helen is a co-founder and former Deputy Chair of ABC Alumni.

To RSVP for the event (and if you wish, nominate for an office-holder position or as a Committee member) go to:

https://www.abcfriends.net.au/nswact_agm_2024



ABC Alumni: THE BRIEF

We are fortunate to have as a branch member Nick Franklin who is a member of Alumni. As such he receives The Brief (“a weekly roundup of ABC and industry news”). Of particular interest to Friends may be an article concerning the allegedly “doctored” audio in the Heston Russell affair from TV Tonight (“Australia's Leading TV Blog”): “*ABC orders independent review following “extra gunshots” claim*”.

<https://tvtonight.com.au/2024/09/abc-orders-independent-review-following-extra-gunshots-claim.html>

Friends are advised to keep abreast of this issue as it is very likely to crop up in discussions with members of the public. Certainly NewsCorp is keeping the issue “alive” as long as it feels it has legs.

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.

Our next branch meeting: 10 a.m., Saturday 12th October 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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