ABC Friends Blue Mountains

Newsletter

2026—NO 3
MAY

CONVENOR'S REPORT

Greetings Friends and Supporters!

Hi all, I'm writing this with half an eye on *Shetland* – watching a bit more ABC telly as the nights get cooler!

Many thanks to those who came to our **coffee morning** earlier this month, especially Di and Sue from Sydney. More are planned for the months between meetings - they provide an opportunity for informal conversation in the congenial atmosphere of the Springwood Sports Club. So please keep them in mind for **July and September (second Saturday mornings in those months).**

Under discussion are possible nominations for the **ABC Friends Excellence Awards***. Although these will be presented in September, we will be finalising our nominations at the next meeting to avoid stressing out our State President, Tess. It's not restricted to branches – individual nominations will also be accepted.

For a more active and satisfying membership experience, consider joining us at the **Winter Magic Festival** which is being revived this year on 20th June. A huge event for Katoomba, we are seizing the opportunity for mass exposure (but please do wear warm clothes). The theme is "Positively Weird" (a self-fulfilling prophecy), and bodies are needed for the Parade (at least 10) and the stall. Think costumes, banners, LISSAJOUS and fun! fun! fun! Further details below!

Many members get so much out of chatting to people about the ABC at occasions like this. **Outreach is our major activity** – it can really make a difference. Writing letters to politicians and newspapers is another. Let us know how you can help raising awareness of the ABC and its challenges.

At the next meeting, on Saturday 13th June, our branch members will celebrate **50 years of ABC Friends** and partake in a celebratory cake! See you there!

***Excellence Awards nominations – think about:**

1. **A current or recently retired ABC employee**.

- Demonstrates excellence in their work at the ABC
- Has had a demonstrable impact on the ABC and ABC audiences.

2. **The best ABC program/series or documentary.**

- Demonstrates excellence in research, analysis and reporting of an important social or political issue
- Is interesting, entertaining and informative - extensive popular appeal
- Has the potential to lead to social transformations.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday June 13. Please bring your ideas for nominations! Note that previous recipients are not eligible.

Carole Dent

KATOOMBA'S VERY OWN

ABC FRIENDS NEEDED!

Winter Magic Festival

Winter Magic returns on June 20th 2026.

THE FESTIVAL PARADE

Applications close midnight Monday 8 June

SO— Contact SUE BATE ASAP if you can participate in the Parade!
(Or help with the stall!)
Email: sueviet@gmail.com **SMS: 0409 774 196**

ABC Friends

ABC Excellence Awards

Do please bring to our next meeting your thoughts regarding individuals and programs that deserve recognition this year.

Some suggestions that have already been informally discussed among members include Matt Doran, Naz Campanella, James Valentine, 'If You're Listening' podcast (Matt Bevan) and "The Matter of Facts" (Hamish McDonald's series).

Katoomba Winter Magic Festival—June 20

This year's theme is "Positively Weird" and so we hope to discuss at our June 13 meeting ideas about how we can promote our messages of support for the ABC within this paradigm, particularly in regard to the Grand Parade.

Ideas for signs, sandwich boards, apparel, funny headwear... are welcome! Elton John-style ABC lissajous specs, anyone?

Out and about in the community

Sue Noske and Sue Bate had a pleasant day representing ABCF at the **Clarendon Markets near Windsor** on Saturday May 9. The Sues engaged in numerous chats with marketgoers about favourite programs and explained the need to defend the ABC.

Given the rapidly-rising popularity of a certain political party and its open hostility to the ABC – increasingly verging on the Trumpian - it seems there is growing need for us to reach out to our community. Events like markets and festivals present great opportunities.

Taking it to the Hawkesbury—Bluey and human Friend at Clarendon Market

Everyone's favourite Lissajous—the Truth Revealed.

Did you know....?

The iconic three-lobed Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) logo, derived from an oscilloscope waveform for measuring radio and television frequencies is called a **Lissajous figure** and was designed in 1965 by ABC graphic designer Bill Kennard,

It was named after Jules Lissajous, a French physicist who studied vibrations using tuning forks. He discovered that when you combine two perpendicular vibrations, you get a beautiful, repeating loop, generated by sinusoidal equations.

Today, the three arms of the logo can be seen to represent radio, television and online.

Which ABC design over the years is your favourite?

-Carole Dent

[sources: ABC Melbourne Facebook post 3/7/19 and Wikipedia]

Members' email addresses

ABC Friends are advised to keep their email addresses up-to-date with the national branch. If you know of someone who has found they are not receiving newsletters as they once did, advise them to check and update their email addresses at abcfriends.net.au .

New ABCF (NSW/ACT) website launched on Tues May 26! *Check it out!*

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.

The most recent publication on the site is: ***'Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion: ABC Alumni Submission',*** the preamble of which states: *'The submission asks the Commissioner, amongst other recommendations, not to accept or reinforce the proposal made by Special Envoy Ms Jillian Segal, that she should be given a special role in shaping the public broadcasters' Editorial Policies or in monitoring their implementation.'*

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

The Flaming Eye of Murdor never sleeps

What recent events at the ABC have energized the ever-vigilant apparatchiks at *The Australian* since our last bulletin? What sinister and egregious *ABC* transgressions have they revealed to their waiting public?

ABC Alumni's submission to the ***Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion*** (see above) has been strongly criticized by some groups and witnesses before the Royal Commission. Their assertions have been enthusiastically packaged up for the Oz's readership by Chris Kenny over two editions in mid-May. His headline for the May 23 edition is *'**ABC AND SBS ARE GUILTY OF FUELLING RISE OF ANTISEMITISM**'* in which he opines at length that the ABC and SBS are '*guilty*' and '*exposed*' over their coverage of Israel's activities in Gaza and the West Bank. He reckons that the public broadcasters willingly fall for exaggerated and falsified Hamas propaganda concerning the suffering of Palestinians, while eschewing the editorial balance that would require ongoing reportage of the suffering of Israeli citizens on October 7 2023 at the hands of Hamas attackers. That the actions of the IDF and settlers are still ongoing, yet the Oct 7 attack, however horrific, is over two years in the past appear to have escaped Kenny's notice.

Kenny and other contributors have also condemned the decisions by ABC and SBS to reject the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism, as insisted on by the Special Envoy for Antisemitism Jillian Segal.

Other characteristic headlines regarding these matters in *The Australian in the merrie month of May:*

- ***Jewish witness tells royal commission ABC contributed to antisemitism—ABC has ignored pain of Israelis*** *(5/5/26)*
- ***'ABC reporting on Gaza war failed nation, feeding into demonisation of Israel, fuelling antisemitism'*** (Kenny, 16/5/26);
- ***'Jewish leaders condemn ABC and SBS for rejecting antisemitism definition'*** (20/5/26);
- ***'Calls for urgent probe into alleged antisemitism at ABC and SBS'*** *(21/5/26—'Three of the Liberals' most prominent frontbenchers are calling for the ABC and SBS to be formally grilled about the allegedly pervasive prejudice that -appears to have infiltrated their taxpayer-funded organisations ...')*
- ***'Commissioner Bell can't ignore evidence ABC fanned the flames of hatred"*** *(Kenny, 23/5/26).*

For several months Newscorp has also been attacking the ABC for its association with ACON and its positive representation of LGTBQI people and issues (***'A helping hand for the ABC'*** - 9/4/26; ***'Ditching ACON first step in reclaiming truth over ideology'*** - 9/4/26).

ABC Friends may recall that the US parent company of Newscorp asserted in its unsuccessful defence in the Dominion Voting Systems V. Fox case that the Murdoch media company disseminated ***'pure opinion'***. I'll just leave that thought there for you. - Ian Bate

Dates for Your Diary

June 13:	**Branch Meeting**
June 20:	**Katoomba Winter Magic Festival**
July 11:	**Coffee morning**
August 8:	**Branch Meeting**
Sept 12:	**Coffee morning**
Oct 10:	**Branch Meeting**
Nov 14:	**AGM (venue TBD)**

Branch meetings venue: Grace Tooth Room, Mid-Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 9 New Street, Lawson.

Coffee Morning venue: Springwood Sports Club, Macquarie Rd Springwood.

Our next branch meeting: 10 a.m., Saturday 13th June 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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