

## MEDIA RELEASE 17 August, 2023

## Why the Update Newsletter is the ABC's Best Friend

Mal Hewitt OAM will talk about his work as editor of *Update* and why this newsletter is one of the ABC's best friends at the next ABC Friends Northern Sydney meeting on Thursday 14 September 2023 from 11.45am-1pm at the Roseville Club, 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville.

Update is published three times a year, informs and educates members about the amazing programs that the national broadcaster provides to inform, educate and entertain us - as well as the issues and challenges it faces. It can be read by anyone on the ABC Friends website at https://www.abcfriends.net.au/national newsletter

Mal Hewitt OAM has been a past president and vice president of ABC Friends NSW & ACT for many years. He is also a passionate musician and music educator, graduating from Sydney Conservatorium in 1966, majoring in violin and voice. Most of his teaching career of 40 years was spent in Western Sydney high schools, where he established band and orchestral programs. From 1981 to 1989 he worked in the Department of Education's Performing Arts Unit, leading the state-wide performance programs and music camps. Mal has also worked with youth orchestras and choirs from USA, Canada, UK and Europe, and throughout Australia, and established The Occasional Performing Sinfonia (TOPS) in 1993, of which he is musical director. Retired from the NSW Department of Education in 2005, Mal continues his passion for music education.

ABC Friends advocates for the ABC, Australia's national broadcaster. ABC Friends is a not-for-profit volunteer-based organisation that is not aligned to any political party. ABC Friends was founded in the northern suburbs of Sydney in 1976 by Walter Bass, a Turramurra resident, who was concerned over the removal of quality programs due to funding cuts. Today it has over 71,000 members and supporters across Australia.

Following the talk, guests are welcome to stay and join ABC friends for lunch (at their own cost) for a delicious lunch at the Roseville Club's Bistrot with 'Chief Paul'.

## 2023-2024 ABC Friends Northern Suburbs guest speaker program includes:

12 OCT: Paddy Manning - 'The Successor: The High-Stakes Life of Lachlan Murdoch'

9 NOV: Gavin Fang, 'Pandemedia' and NSoS AGM

8 FEB 2024: Dr Phil Kafcaloudes 'Australia Calling, The ABC Radio Australia Story'

14 MAR 2024: A Panel of Poets Celebrating World Poetry Day

11 APRIL 2024: Lynne Malcolm, 'All in the Mind'

CONTACT: JANINE KITSON, ABC FRIENDS NORTHERN SUBURBS (NSoS) BRANCH CONVENOR M: 0428 860 623 E: <a href="mailto:janinemkitson@gmail.com">janinemkitson@gmail.com</a> https://www.abcfriends.net.au/nsw act northern suburbs of sydney branch