

BLUE MOUNTAINS ABORIGINAL CULTURE & RESOURCE CENTRE

BLACK-MAIL

December -January

2016/17



ACRC will be closed from the **23rd Dec.**
We resume services on the **17th of Jan.**

Managers Christmas Message.

Well it is that time again, where the man in the big red suit is getting ready to arrive. If you have been naughty all year try and be good for the rest of the year just in case Santa has some spare presents which he may give to you for finishing the year off well **“It’s worth a try anyway”**. As we approach Christmas I would like us all to take a bit of time and reflect and think of others. For many Christmas is usually the best time of year, however for others it is a time when many are all alone, it is also a time, I know it is for me, where we look around remembering what it was like when others were still with us. So please be gentle on yourself and be gentle on others as we have no idea what others are going through, they might not have any idea what you are going through either, so please be gentle with each other.

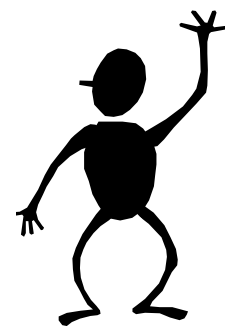
This year has been a hectic year but it has also been a fruitful year. We have seen the arrival of two new vehicles, we have sent elders away for the elders Olympics and many of our outings and fun days have seen many old faces return and many new faces come on board, which is a mark of the great work Raylee, Annette, Robert, Jade and our volunteers have done throughout the entire year. So in “A big thankyou to Annette, Jade, Robert, Raylee, Cass, Christine, Uncle Ed and the entire board for all your effort this year”. I want to give thanks to all community members who have attended and supported our events throughout the year for if it were not for you, our events would not have been the great success that they were. Once again, thank you and I look forward to seeing you next year.

I wish every one of you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Wayne Cornish

Repurposed food drop-off

Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre’s manager Morna has offered to drop food off repurposed food here at ACRC each Monday. Allocation of food will be first come first serve, the food arrives between 10AM-11AM. Food will only be available for pickup at ACRC. Please contact the office on Monday mornings to arrange an alert for when the food arrives, or come in and have a cuppa. (Transport is unavailable at this time due to other commitments like playgroup).





The Auntie Betty Locke Bus has been rebadged. We updated the bus earlier this year and we have been updating the bus as necessary, such as installing a stair and reapplying the sticker acknowledging Auntie Betty Locke.

We are also working on obtaining magnetic signage for the sides of our vehicles.

ACRC 20th anniversary

This year ACRC celebrated its 20th anniversary since becoming incorporated. We decided it would be nice to combine this anniversary with our AGM, however as fate would have it we ran out of time. Steve Wilcoxon and Tracey Keeves-Keller gave Auntie Bev and I quite a bit of information, but we were still missing a lot of the guts of the story.

Auntie Bev spoke to Julie Wilson who agreed to come and speak at the AGM. Julie spoke about ACRC when it was just a little baby and how the conception for ACRC come about. Many people were surprised at who was involved with start of ACRC as we all know there are many different stories. Due to a lack of time to truly recognise everyone who has contributed to ACRC since its conception, we have decided to put the history of ACRC into a book, this way the full history and all the people involved will be recognised and pay the respect that is due. If you wish to apart of putting this book of ACRC together please contact.

Wayne 4782 9402 email manager@acrc.org.au

AGM

This year's AGM was well attended with almost twice as many people as last year. For that I would like to thank everyone who attended as you attendance was greatly appreciated. Uncle Colin Locke, held the honour of performing the welcome to country and Uncle Lex Dadd did the smoking ceremony and sang in Darug Language while people were going through the cleansing of the smoke. Everyone liked Uncle Lex singing while the smoking ceremony was being conducted as they felt a little closer to culture.

All previous six board members were unopposed in their role and 1 new member was elected, Mr Ian Frape, this year's Naidoc life time achievement award winner. So Ian we welcome you, your wealth of experience, knowledge and the integrity that you bring to ACRC. I know all the board members and I look forward to working with you and we all look forward to starting next year off fresh.

I thank all the board members for their support throughout the year and I thank all, the staff who made this year's AGM run smoothly.

Elders support service

Annette has returned back to fulltime work (she is over the moon to be back), however, she is not 100% and will have an upcoming surgery in the next few months.

On the 13th December there will be a movie day at Penrith Hoyts (15 tickets available). Contact Annette to secure your ticket or for transport.

Elder's X-mas Lunch

7th December, Lawson Bowling Club at 11am

Annette and other community members will be catering, please notify of any dietary requirements as soon as possible. Transport available.

Transport

Transport will cease on the 23rd of December. Bookings for the 9th of January to the 16th of January are required before the 23rd December, no new bookings after that date. Annette will be the only driver available during this period. Full service resumes on the 17th January.

A calendar will be provided in the February Blackmail. On behalf of transport and elders support we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year, please stay safe this festive season.

Playgroup

Raylee would like to thank everyone who has attended and supported this year's playgroup, a special mention to Pam and Amanda for their Facebook support and their continued commitment to making birthday cakes this year. Thank you Sally for your support this year, you have helped the playgroup be a success,

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved this year especially the elders when they come to visit. Have a great Christmas I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

The final playgroup this year is on the 12th of December and playgroup will resume on the 6th of February, please contact Raylee if you are interested in joining for next year.
familysupport@acrc.org.au

ACRC FAMILY CAMP 2017

SORRY FULLY BOOKED OUT

***ACRC Camp will be held at
Merroo ChristianCentre Kurrajong NSW***

***Date: 16th January 2017 to 18th January 2017
2 nights and 3 days***

ACRC was given funding for our family Camp 2017

Without the great support from our manager at ACRC we would not have had the funds to take our Aboriginal Families away for a few days.

THANK YOU Wayne

ACRC Facebook pages

ACRC management would like it noted that any of negative comments about any other group or person will not be acceptable and you will be asked to remove negative comments from the page. If anyone posts negative comments on any of our Facebook pages, ACRC management has the right to block these people and will do so without hesitation.

‘House rules’

- Any text, images, videos or sound uploaded by a contributor is taken to be the contributor’s own creation or legally available for them to use
- Where a contributor is publishing video or audio from other sources, or linking to other people, that contributor must have obtained consent to publish or link
- No material or comments that are defamatory, infringe the rights of others, or are misleading should be posted
- Any postings by contributors can be re-used by the organisation in any other forum
- The organisation is not responsible for contributors’ posts, and
- The organisation has a right to delete any content or posts which it believes to be:
 - False, misleading or deceptive
 - An infringement of copyright, moral rights or trade mark rights
 - Contrary to the intentions, purposes or values of the organisation
 - Defamatory or offensive, or
 - That contains confidential information.

Don't spend Christmas alone

Enjoy a free community lunch on Christmas Day.

Everyone is welcome.

Blackheath Community Centre

Crn GWH and Gardiners Cres, Blackheath

Ph 0414 993 873 or 0451 462 966

Leanne Tobin
The Messenger - 2016

The Messenger shows a serious young girl. She represents our youth and the future generation.

The Willy Wagtail she holds in front of her is seen by many Aboriginal communities as cheeky and mischievous or a harbinger of bad news but the Darug people of Sydney see him as a messenger bird bringing news, sometimes good and sometimes bad.

The flannel flowers symbolise hope and openness. Messengers are sent by spirit and need to be heard for the future survival of our people and our country.

A3 prints are available for \$20.

Contact ACRC or email admin@acrc.org.au

Help support our local artists.



This year we have had an Aboriginal Women's Art and Textile dying group. We have been dying silk scarves and cushion covers.

The Facilitator of this group is Sue Wildman who is an extraordinary artist and teacher. All the women attending have created wonderful scarves and cushion covers, which we will be selling at the Twilight Markets in Katoomba on Friday, 2nd December. We have all been amazed at what we have achieved.

The group meets on Thursday mornings at 10:30 in the upstairs rooms of the old State Bank Building in Katoomba St. The group will start up again in early February, so anyone interested can contact ACRC for further information.

The Gully
By Lyn Stanger

*In the heart of my town is a gully
With wild bush and a stream that runs free,
It's the place of my ancient people
And was home for my family and me.
Down in this valley so sacred
Black people have lived through the years
And when white men built there a racetrack
The place was awash with their tears.
The big gums fell down to the dozer
The bush was torn up in the fray,
But the scar made by the racetrack
Is visible there still today.
As the mist comes down in The Gully
And gently covers the ground,
The Spirits of those gone before
Keep a silent watch over their land.*

*But wait! There's a new breed have come here
With computers and Knowledge and boasting
And pamphlets and books in their hand
They say they know better than we do
The way to look after this place.
But they have no respect for my people
Or the Spirit that created this ground
So what right do they have to tell us
From the books they bring in their hand
How we should look after and care for
The stream, the bush, our home and our land.
As the mist swirls around the Gully
And settles over the ground,
The Spirits are silently watching
Keeping guard on the bush and the land.*

This is January's poem in the Sassy Sister Calendar.

Please support our local Elder's and buy one of their beautiful calendars.

Price \$12.

Contact ACRC 4782 6569 or email admin@acrc.org.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

KU Bilya Gulyangarri Preschool

Is now enrolling for 2017.

The preschool year starts 1st January 2017.

Only \$5 per day.

Ph: 4782 5847

- ❖ Qualified, experienced and caring staff.
- ❖ A nurturing and inclusive environment valuing Indigenous culture.
- ❖ Located next to North Katoomba Primary School.
- ❖ A large, natural outdoor area promoting exploration and sustainability.



Has FACS/DOCS been in touch with you about your children? Or do you have children in care?

Dealing with FACS/DOCS can be very stressful. You don't have to face it by yourself - the **Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre** can provide you with advice and support you by finding options that work for you and your family and acting on your behalf in your negotiations with FACS/DOCS.

We are a free community service that is independent of the government, and located here in Katoomba.

If you would like to find out more, please call us on **4782 4155** or drop by our office at 4 Station St, Katoomba and ask to speak to **Arlia** or **Julie**.

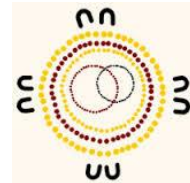


Yarning Circle

For Aboriginal workers to get together to network and talk over problems.

Last Monday of every month.
12:30 Blaxland Neighbourhood Centre.

Call Auntie Bev Eaton,
Ph: 04 1478 4290



Do you have any Government Fines?

If you have any outstanding fines & you are struggling to pay these fines off, why not attend a Tafe course. Tafe NSW has an Aboriginal Work development officer at Mt DrUITT Tafe. If you receive Centrelink payments, and have ID, \$50 for each hour you attend can be automatically paid off. No fines can be backdated.

For all inquiries please contact Mt DrUITT Tafe (02) 9208 6247



Katoomba Neighbourhood centre has some bush fire information packs.

If interested please drop in.



AIDER Program

Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents

To remove bush fire hazards.

One off FREE service.

- ❖ **Thinning vegetation**
- ❖ **Tree trimming**
- ❖ **Cleaning gutters**

Call 02 8741 4955

Fire Safety

- ❖ **Plan ahead**
- ❖ **Pack valuables, important documents and photos early**
- ❖ **Have an evacuation pack with clothes food and water**
- ❖ **Have an escape route and a place you can go to**
- ❖ **Ensure you have a plan for your pets as well**
- ❖ **Maintain your property (see below)**
- ❖ **Don't put your life at risk, leave early**
- ❖ **If you plan to stay seek additional advice**

STAY SAFE THIS FIRE SEASON



1. TRIM

Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.



2. MOW

Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.



3. REMOVE

Remove material that can burn around your home (e.g. Door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint, outdoor furniture).



4. CLEAR

Clear and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home. Burning embers can set your home on fire.



5. PREPARE

Prepare a sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Make sure you've got a reliable source of water.

Broom - Noxious weed.

Description

- ❖ Erect, woody perennial shrub to 3m, with ridged, much-branched stems, common in disturbed areas.
- ❖ Sparse, tiny grey-green leaves with three leaflets; older plants may be almost leafless.
- ❖ Large numbers of bright yellow pea flowers, either single or in pairs, along the stems in spring.
- ❖ Flat, green seed pods turn black, producing huge numbers of hard brown shiny seeds, believed to survive seventy years or more in the soil.
- ❖ Flowers September, October, November.



Broom is extremely competitive with native plants, retarding the growth of many understory species, leading to a loss of biodiversity. Broom alters the bushland habitat in which it grows — shading out native plants, keeping soil cool and changing soil chemistry — producing conditions that are unsuitable for local native plants.

- ❖ Hand pull seedlings or small plants, easier with moist soil. Cut large plants and paint with herbicide.
- ❖ Regular follow-up is needed as removal of plants will stimulate the germination of seeds in the soil.

For more information on weeds and removal please visit <http://weedsbluemountains.org.au/>

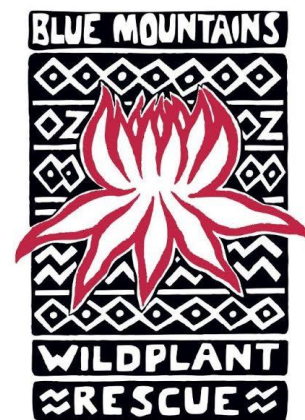
Natives that can be confused with Broom

Broom Spurge *Amperea xiphioclada*

This is a small understory plant. It can be confused with Broom that is small (seedlings). However, the stems are very different. Broom has square stems and *Amperea* has triangular stems. Another difference is that *Amperea* has the appearance of having no leaves. They are small scaly structures around the stem.

There are two local native pea plants that can be confused with Broom because they have large yellow flowers like that of Broom. These are *Gompholobium latifolium* and *Gompholobium grandifolium*.

However, the leaves and general plant structure of the *Gompholobium*s are very different to Broom.



Fun Fact

A cat's whiskers correspond to the width of its body; it uses them to know whether or not it can fit through narrow spaces - in general, the chubbier a cat, the wider its whiskers.



BIRTHDAY WISHES

ACRC would like to wish everyone who is celebrating their birthday a big happy birthday!

Aboriginal Woman's group

ACRC Aboriginal Woman's group will run on the 3rd Friday of each month except for public holidays. Our next group will be held on the **17th of February** from 11:30am till 1.30 pm.

For more information please contact Raylee or Annette on 02 4782 6569.

NO ACRC Staff will be answering Phones: during this time.

Aboriginal Men's group

The men's group meet the last Friday of every month for Lawn bowls at Springwood Bowling club to meet up with Mick Field and the Healthy 4 life men's group.

Men's group will resume February 2017. For bookings and more information please contact Wayne Cornish 02 4782 9402 or manager@acrc.org.au

ACRC operating hours

Mon to Thurs: 9am-5pm & Friday: 9am-12noon

Services available...

- Supported playgroup 11am -1pm on Monday's during school terms at 'KOOSH' behind the Katoomba Neighborhood Centre.
- Elders and disabled Transport Services
- Photocopying, telephone and internet access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members

Wayne Cornish – Manager (Mon-Fri)
manager@acrc.org.au

Raylee Wall – Family Support Worker (Mon-Fri)
familysupport@acrc.org.au

Annette Lavender – Elder Support and Transport Worker (Mon-Fri)
elderssupportservice@acrc.org.au

ACRC PH: 4782 6569