



NEWSLETTER - ISSUE MAY 2022

# BLACKMAIL

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre

## Message from the CEO

Warami marri yura – hello again everyone  
We hope you are all staying safe and well!

This issue of the Blackmail newsletter is acknowledging National Sorry Day, held annually on 26 May. This is a highly significant day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. For many it is a day of Mourning, particularly for Stolen Generations Survivors, their families and friends.

Sorry Day is also a time to pay tribute to the remarkable strength and resilience of our People and is a day to reflect on how we can contribute to a healing process between all communities. National Sorry Day is held the day before the Country begins the National Recognition Week. The week begins on 27 May to mark the anniversary of the 1967 referendum and ends on Mabo Day. National Recognition Week is designed to restore friendly relations between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous Peoples. In other words, a time for creating some positive outcomes by focusing on building relationships or partnerships between cultures.


In line with this plan for recognition, Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre (BMACRC) staff have been reaching out to non-Indigenous community organisations to find positive ways to work together. A recent Family Fun Day at Bullaburra was a great example of building partnerships, and we have some great photos of the event.  
continued...

ACRC  
OFFICE

14 Oak Street  
Katoomba  
NSW 2780

PO BOX 334  
Katoomba NSW  
2780

Transport  
Enquiries  
Please call  
Gerard:  
02 4782 6569



Our ongoing connection with Gateway Family Services is another good example of the benefits of working in partnership with non-Indigenous organisations.

This partnership has led to new BMACRC programming called OUR PLACE for boys and in this issue of the Blackmail we include a story about the way OUR PLACE got started and the positive effects for Young Aboriginal Boys in the area.

We would love to see this program expanded to include a separate program for young Aboriginal girls' and we have begun re-connecting with Katoomba High School to design programs for older age groups. There are many schools across the mountains that we would like to work with, and this is why BMACRC has started a new Youth Traineeship. We hope to fill gaps in services for all youth and younger children to add to our existing Family Support. It is going to take some time to get youth programs running but I believe we are on the right track in our aims.

At present BMACRC Staff are looking at ways to support our Elders and broader community to attend much needed social activities. We are also remaining vigilant while COVID cases are still occurring in the Blue Mountains community. We recently supported the Katoomba TAFE Art Group with catering for their orientation day, we have held some nice hot lunches for our Elders with visits from the Blue Mountains and Nepean Local Health District Mootang Tarami wellbeing team. Interested Elders also attended a Seniors week celebration at Leura, so hopefully the issues that have postponed past events will begin to ease, and we can look forward to some fun activities for all ages into the future.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Blackmail as we move to the next stage of the year, stay tuned for some exciting new planning for our community  
NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Didyurigura - Thank you

**Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with general information,  
events and more!**

**<https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsAboriginalCultureResourceCentre>**



# National Sorry Day & National Recognition Week

## National Sorry Day 26 May 2016

Part of Reconciliation Week  
27 May - 3 June 2016



**BE  
BRAVE.  
MAKE  
CHANGE.**



**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022**  
27 MAY - 3 JUNE  **#NRW2022**

*We acknowledge the Dharug and Gundungurra people as the Traditional Custodians of the land in which we live and work.*



## Message from the Board

### **AGM Addition for the Blackmail.**

At the 2020 to 2021 Annual General Meeting held in March 2022 (delayed due to Covid) our members attended to give their opinions on matters that they wanted to put forward about our organisation. At times the AGM meeting became heated with passionate thoughts. We had some laughs, acknowledged some tears but it was abundantly clear that people care very much and have enthusiasm for our community and our small organisation.

Therefore, we are in this together and as Chair I believe we should be focusing on standing together as a community, holding each other up and working as a team to rebuild after several years of social isolation and environmental disasters have held us back. It is also important to remember that no one is perfect, so we should not hold people to standards that are impossible to achieve.

In this issue of the Blackmail the Board would also like to introduce Uncle Colin Locke and welcome him as a new board member. We feel lucky to have Uncle Colin because he has great experience working on Boards and working in community.

The board would also like to update the community on an agenda item that was raised at the AGM. The matter relates to our membership plan. At the AGM we discussed how BMACRC needs to send out almost 2 hundred notices to members for AGM meetings and many of the members on our list have either moved and /or not updated their details. Many have moved out of area and some people no longer wish to be members or are not active, which is a requirement for continuing membership. We explained how this is a huge unnecessary cost to BMACRC and that we would like to discuss and agree on some solutions. Some examples of actions we would like to take include: -

- Have potentially new members understand they do not need to be a member to use our services or attend our events.
- Our rule book states members need to be active for example, if they are unable to attend the AGM they can pass on their apologies.
- Another concern is people moving off the mountain. In our rule book they can continue to be a member if they still have a connection to the mountains. Being mindful that this again is the unwanted expense we need to address.



## Message from the Board (cont)

After discussing this issue with Oric and assessing the rule book, we have been advised that we can cancel memberships if there has been no correspondence after a certain amount of time or if we have 3 Return to senders. This also led us to discuss the following options. These include: -

We could write to the member and notify them that due to the specific reason and they would need to reply within a set amount of time, or they will be taken off the membership list. This would be a gentle process, clearly stating that they can then become a member again at any time in the future and reminding them that they are still welcome to use our services, attend events etc.

This process will then be documented, and their names will be added to the non-member list.

Also, at this time Associate members could be sent the notices, we would like to put it forward that these members are still welcome to attend but they will be invited through social media and the website.

We would also like to have a solid list of members who wish to receive their papers via email, this will be a documented procedure and can be changed anytime.

These procedures will also work for the Blackmail, asking people to let us know if and how they wish to receive the newsletter and how, by email or post. If we attempt to get this information, 3 times with no reply they would be taken off the list, but the same rules will apply, they can ask to be put back on at any time.

All of this may seem unnecessary, but we are on a great track, and we really want to be able to spend as much money on our programs as possible, Venessa is constantly applying for funding and the board are working with the staff to start cutting unnecessary costs down.

There was also a request for a quick write up on the board members. This will be worked over coming issues starting with Uncle Colin, our latest elected board member.

Thank you for your time and support  
The board.



# Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre

14 Oak Street Katoomba

## RECRUITMENT

**Are you a friendly person who works well in a team?**

**BMACRC is looking for a Casual Driver**

**This is an Aboriginal Identified role**

**Casual Hours as required**

**Must have: C Class Driver License,  
Police Check, and Working with Children Check.**

Please email [ceo@acrc.org.au](mailto:ceo@acrc.org.au)

Or phone 02 47826569



# Transport

Hi Community

The need for transport is now increasing as we move well into the year and covid restrictions have eased. Our regular programs such as the Koori Play Group are back up and running so our bus is busy on Mondays.

We are also looking for a casual driver and we believe this would suit a retired person who would like a few hours work per week. The problem with finding a driver is that we can't be sure of the hours we have on offer. Some weeks we are overly busy with medical transport and events etc., and some weeks less so. Currently we only have one driver, which is Faye with me backfilling until we find another driver. This is tricky to because I have other work such as the reporting I must do in my job.

So, with that in mind, please remember to book any transport you may need, with a minimum of two working days' notice whenever possible. Booking early will really help us to provide better transport and when we do find a casual driver, we will be able to give them plenty of notice for their shifts. And if you need to cancel your journey, please remember to let us know as soon as possible and definitely before the driver turns up please, because we have to pay our drivers for a minimum of three hours.

Much Appreciated  
Gerard

## Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre

### TRANSPORT—from 30 May 2021

**Zone 1** Mount Victoria to Lawson

**\$5 RETURN**

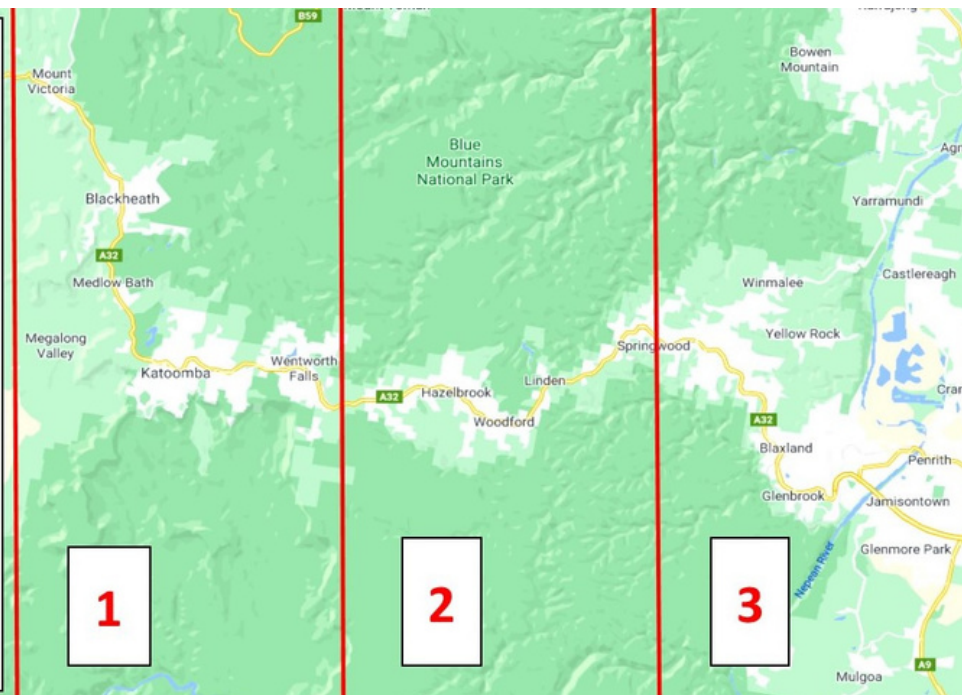
**Zone 2** Mount Victoria to Springwood

**\$10 RETURN**

**Zone 3** Mount Victoria to Kingswood /Nepean

Hospital

**\$15 RETURN**



## Family Support

Hello, Blue Mountains ACRC wishes to let you know that Paul Glass has resigned his role as acting Family Support. We acknowledge that Paul has been dedicated to community, and as such we all wish him the very best in his future goals and dreams. While Paul was in the role he assisted with Playgroups, and he also organized a great Family Fun Day at the Bullaburra Village Green on Thursday 21st April.

The Family Fun Day saw BMACRC strengthening our partnerships with the Mountains Outreach Community Service (MOCS), Belong Blue Mountains and the Stronger Family Alliance (SFA). We came together this day during the Easter school holidays and there was plenty of food, cultural dance workshops and creative activities for children and parents alike.

There were up to 200 people in attendance over the day with a diversity of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous families coming together to share and learn about Culture and the local environment, while having fun and meeting new friends. We had over 30 evaluations filled out on the day so the next Family Fun Day will be even better!!

Our view is to try to provide as many activities as possible to reconnect our community, coming out of successive disasters including bush fires, floods and COVID lockdowns. We had a wonderful time at a Family excursion to the Hawkesbury show. We worked as a team to purchase tickets and organize transport. Some people made their own way there and feedback about the day has been good, although we were disappointed that we couldn't provide the lunch that we had planned, and we sincerely apologise for this.

A Family Support Worker is a focused role and as such Venessa Possum (CEO) will be prioritising the recruitment of a permanent worker. In the meantime, Venessa will happily backfill the position to ensure services. Trish will continue with Playgroup with Venessa's support, and we are always looking for community support whenever possible 😊



*Bullaburra  
Family Fun  
Day  
Bush Walking*



# Family Support Continued

## Bullaburra Fun Day







# WALKING TOGETHER PROJECT

**Join us to champion a movement where all Australians walk together to construct a better future.**

A culturally diverse, non-Indigenous youth cohort together with First Nations young people will join forces and learn to facilitate educational workshops based on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

If you are energised and:

- care about a fairer Australia
- keen to share and escalate the Uluru Statement from the Heart
- have some experience, and keen to hone your facilitation skills
- have time and capacity to attend at least one online training session per week until the end of June 2022
- under 30 years old

Come - accept the invitation to walk together.

Click [here](#) to register for the Walking Together information session.



**For more information call: Springwood Neighbourhood Centre 4751 3033 or Thrive Katoomba 4782 1555**

## Elders Support

Hello

I would like to start with acknowledging our Ancestors, without their guidance our paths to would be much more difficult.

As an update on recent social activities, there have been two Elders Lunches since the last Blackmail. They were both held at Katoomba Christian Centre. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and morning teas in a very comfortable space, surrounded by beautiful bushland. We were very fortunate to have Donna Jory, the Aboriginal Health Worker/Aboriginal Chronic Care Outreach Program - Mootang Tarimi, join us on both occasions. The topic for the first lunch was Wellness and the topic for the second lunch focused on Diabetes.

The next Elders Lunch is a "Women's Day" where we will discuss Women's Health with Donna and it will be held on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at the Katoomba Christian Centre with transport provided on request. Please Contact me, Elly Chatfield on (02) 4782 6569 and I will let Gerard Scifo know that you need transport.

Don't worry Uncles you will not miss out, it will be your turn to have a get together soon.

My work behind the scenes has been steady, with results coming together slowly but surely. As we move into more openness in terms of how we navigate the outside world, I am reminded to be aware of the fragile nature that each of us find ourselves experiencing. Kindness to each other is most important.

After spending far too long affected by isolation, it feels like we all deserve a party don't you think? Well, that is exactly what we were planning. With that in mind the ACRC are very happy to announce the NAIDOC BALL 2022 is happening on Saturday 25th June, 2022. The theme is Feathers and Glitter (or Sequins). So, get your dancing shoes, feathers and glitter ready, let's have a party. To follow is a flyer that has more information including a link to purchase tickets online. Baring this in mind, we understand that some people may prefer to pay us directly, this too can be arranged.

Thank you  
for your time Elly





Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre

# NAIDOC BALL 2022

<b>Date</b>	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
<b>Venue</b>	The Hydro Majestic - Ball Room 52 - 88 Great Western Highway Medlow Bath
<b>Time</b>	6.30pm to 10.30pm
<b>Tickets</b>	\$40 per ticket (no table bookings)

*Three Course Dinner - Music - Dancing - Prizes*

*Dress - Formal*

*Theme - Glitter and Feathers*

**Details:** This is an 18+ event, limited tickets – first in best dressed, tickets available via Eventbrite link or by request to [elders@acrc.org.au](mailto:elders@acrc.org.au)

**Blue Mountains ACRC is pleased to announce a NAIDOC BALL for 2022! We are so excited because these events have not been possible during COVID. Please note, the event is for 18 years and over and we are unable to provide transport for this event.**

**Entry to the Ball Room is via the ramp on the left side of the Pavilion. Tickets are limited (no full table bookings)**

**Aboriginal community ticket link - a live link is available on FACEBOOK:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bmacrc-naidoc-ball-2022-tickets-337864661297>**

**If you do not have a visa card and would like to purchase a ticket by cash please contact Elly Chatfield by email: [elders@acrc.org.au](mailto:elders@acrc.org.au) / or by phone 0247826569.**

**See you there for a great night!**



## Cultural Support



### **OUR PLACE - A boys culture group Warami to all**

For the past two years Blue Mountains ACRC and GATEWAY have been working in partnership to develop a program for young boys between 6-12 years of age. During this time the boys have learnt many very important cultural values including how to be respectful, patient, and humble within all walks of life.

The boys have made tangible cultural items such as spears with blunt ends and clay weights, rope making using stringy bark, and clap sticks and they have learnt cultural painting in various forms, traditional song, and language along with stories from our Old People with the theme of looking after one and other. OUR PLACE has also been a fulfilling experience for me watching the boys develop and grow within their culture.

We would love to thank the team at Gateway Family Services for making this partnership possible and an absolute delight to take part in. We are hopeful that in the near future there will be a similar group and program for young ladies to be led by a female BMACRC worker. We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and hope to see more programs like this run in the future.

**Yours in Culture, Lexodious Dadd**



## Partnership Page

# Blue Mountains ACRC and Gateway Family Services Katoomba

## A partnership Built on Mutual Respect

Over the past few years the partnership between Gateway and BMACRC has been growing and deepening. We have run arts based groups together, consulted with each other and shared spaces and resources. The Our Place group is a wonderful example of the benefits of working together.

OUR PLACE is a group for boys that meets once a month providing opportunities for the boys to learn about local Culture, through art, music, tool making, storytelling and other hands on activities. The groups support the boys to explore their own identity and sense of belonging while connecting with County, Culture and positive male role models.

BMACRC has the Cultural expertise and knowledge that is core to this program. Uncle Lex facilitates the group with the help of Elders such as Uncle Ed as an respected Elder and Shaun O'Bryan, a young Gamillaroi man learning on the job.

Kathie O'Connor from Gateway brings her expertise in child development and Clinical Practice. Supporting the male facilitators quietly in the background Kathie has been able to identify the special support needs of children in the group. Keeping families connected to the group is an important element of the groups' success. Gateway manages registrations, lets families know when it's on and sends out individual photo collections each week so the boys can see themselves engaging in culture and community (so important for developing a positive sense of identity).

One of the key themes that is repeated throughout the group is Respect. Our Place is a partnership built on respect. Working together has been such a rewarding experience, we are constantly learning from each other, solving problems together and sharing different perspectives.







## BMACRC Board Member Profile

### Uncle Colin Locke



My name is Uncle Colin Locke. I was born in Katoomba and have spent my entire life living here, in what can only be described as paradise. I am an Elder of the Dharug Community which encompasses the entire Greater Sydney Basin.

My previous working background has been as a Fitter & Machinist, Toolmaker, Diesel Technician with Freight Rail and as a Customer Service Officer in Centrelink. I was recently employed by NSW Health as an Aboriginal Mental Health Clinician for the past twenty years after completing my Degree in Aboriginal Mental Health in Wagga Wagga. I have now been retired from this position for the past two years.

Since retiring, I have worked with Muru Mittigar as Cultural Advisor by talking to schools, visiting inmates at Parklea Correctional Centre, conducting Smoking Ceremonies and Welcome to Country invitations. I am also a member of the NSW Cancer Council Reconciliation Action Plan.

Currently I am on the Board of Directors for BMACRC, a position that I also filled many years ago. I now look forward to serving the Aboriginal community of Blue Mountains and beyond.





**ACRC NOTICE BOARD**  
**URGENT HELP NEEDED**

**Dear Community**

**Blue Mountains ACRC have been speaking with Uncle Lenny Murphy on a weekly basis, taking his calls for help to locate his IMPORTANT Family Photos.**

**This issue has persisted since ANZAC DAY 2021 - one year ago! when a lady came to his house to borrow family photos for her research to update the Katoomba War Memorial Hospital Plaque with names of Aboriginal diggers.**

**While this was a lovely gesture, it is very sad that Uncle now has to try and find the photos that were never returned, and he has no contact name or phone number to go by. These are the only copies he had and he is very sad.**

**He would be DEEPLY grateful if the photos could be returned to him (no questions asked).**

**PLEASE HELP US SOLVE THIS DEEPLY TROUBLING PROBLEM FOR UNCLE LENNY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

**With gratitude,  
ACRC Staff.**