

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2022

BLACKMAIL

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre

CEO Message - Christmas 2022

Hello again everyone,
We hope you are all staying safe and well!

This issue of the Blackmail newsletter is celebrating Christmas 2022 or the Holiday Season for some.

As another year passes, I am thinking about some fun activities ACRC staff are planning for the community to celebrate, especially knowing our community has shown great resilience after several Covid lockdowns and cancelled events last Christmas and earlier this year.

On this note, Elly Chatfield and I recently attended a health leadership conference at Lithgow Hub titled Trauma Informed Recovery. Many of the guest speakers presented topics based on personal experiences in Communities. The stories covered a broad range of reasons why personal trauma increases when people are forced into isolation, particularly during a pandemic or severe weather events. It was also important to hear about diverse wellbeing issues people have faced beyond our region.

CONTIUED OVER PAGE

**BMACRC
OFFICE**


14 Oak
Street
Katoomba
NSW 2780

PO BOX 334
Katoomba
NSW 2780

Transport
Enquiries
Please call
Gerard:
02 4782 6569

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One example was about a community where people lost everything in the Black Saturday Bush Fires. A counsellor spoke about how much he learned from the families. He said he witnessed people developing acceptance and this led to HOPES for the future.

We have witnessed HOPE in our Blue Mountains community and luckily we had some great opportunities to reconnect at the Naidoc Ball, the Elder's Canberra trip, and Family excursions to Hawkesbury show and Sydney Zoo, to name a few. All have been great experiences and have offered support for all ages.

In this edition you will hear from staff, including two new staff members who some of our community have already met. This edition also includes two flyers promoting our key Christmas events for 2022. These events are an Elders Christmas Luncheon at the Carrington and a Community Christmas Pool Party at Lawson.

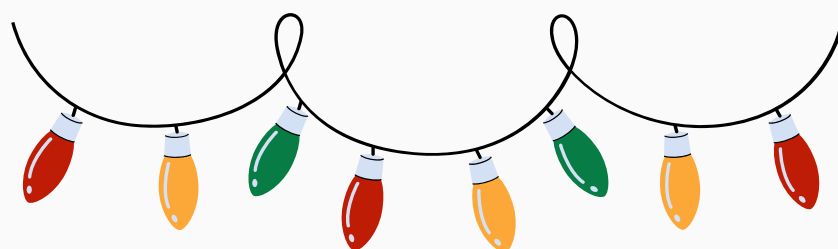
We have missed holding these events in past years during Covid, so we hope you can attend these events to finish this year on a FUN and HOPEFUL note.

I would like to let community know the dates for our annual Christmas break...Blue Mountains ACRC staff finish work on

Friday 23 December 2022

Returning to work on Monday 9 January 2023

During this time we wish everyone a safe and happy time. Thank you for reading my contributions throughout the year, and I hope you enjoy this edition of the Blackmail. Thanks again, Venessa Possum.





Message from the Board

As we get to the end of the year again, we would like to thank our community and the staff for such an amazing year.

It truly feels there is unity within our community, and it is such a lovely feeling knowing we are heading into the new year with excitement and warmth.

The board are also looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM on 3 December 2022 so we can hear your reflective thoughts or discuss ways to continue improving, so we can continue to grow and move forward with positivity.

We wish everyone a safe and beautiful holiday season.

Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 3rd December 2022
Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Katoomba-Leura Community Centre (Main Hall).
81-83 Katoomba St, Katoomba NSW 4780

The AGM will begin at 10:30 after a smoking ceremony and an opportunity to share some morning tea.

Previous AGM Minutes and list of Attendees will be accessible on the day.





JOIN US FOR THE
**ELDERS
CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON**

7 DECEMBER 2022

12NOON - 3PM

THE CARRINGTON HOTEL

Gifts

Hot Christmas Lunch

RSVP - Friday 25 November

To Elly Chatfield

Email: elders@acrc.org.au

or Ph: 02 4782 6569

For Transport contact Gerard

Ph: 02 4782 6569

ACRC had a visit from Transport for NSW

Lauren spent a day in the life of the Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre community transport deliverers in Katoomba late last month.

Lauren and 15 passengers took the community bus to Penrith for lunch.



Throughout the day, Lauren learnt how the trip was planned and recorded, watched the logistics of collecting and dropping off clients at their homes and experienced the value community transport adds to the lives of our regional customers.

From medical and dental appointment transportation to day trips and leisure, the centre goes above and beyond with the service it supplies and has created strong connections with customers.

Lauren said she was grateful to have experienced the camaraderie and support amongst the clients and the dedicated employees of the centre.

"It was a fantastic day and I felt honoured to be part of it. I enjoyed listening to the chatting and laughter on the bus as we travelled to and from Penrith and was privileged to hear stories of family histories and memories," Lauren said.



Family and Youth Activities - Christmas Message

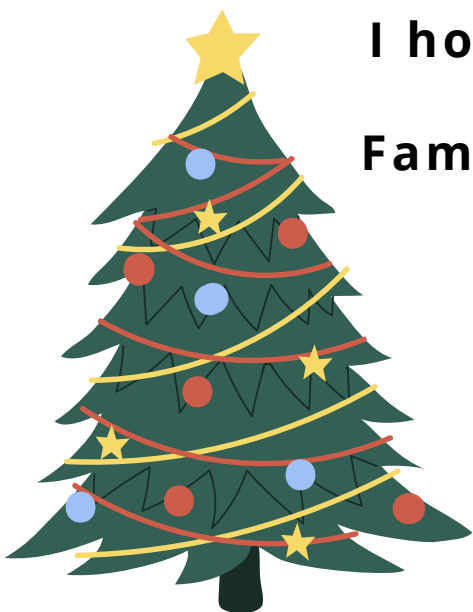
In 2022 Koori Playgroup explored many different activities such as creating their little Ganya in the sandpit, going on adventures, walk through the bush, arts and craft and much more! I am definitely looking forward to seeing what 2023 holds for Koori Playgroup!

In the last school holidays, we organised a family fun day to the new Sydney Zoo in Blacktown! Besides the scorching heat, the kids and families loved it! Some kids argued over who was cooler, the meerkats, bull sharks or the lions.

After a long year of fun activities with both our Koori Playgroup and ACRC Families, I am excited to announce our last event for the year, our Community Christmas Party at Lawson Pool! The event is free entry into the Pool plus a BBQ and drinks!

I also cannot forget to mention our special guest, **Santa is Coming to visit** to give everyone their presents!

I hope to see you all there!
Thanks, Trish
Family and Youth Activities





Merry Christmas

THURSDAY 22nd DECEMBER 2022
11AM - 3PM

LAWSON POOL
ST BERNARDS DRIVE, LAWSON
CAR PARKING IS AVAILABLE

- **FREE POOL ENTRY, BBQ & DRINKS &
A VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS!**

RSVP BY 9 DECEMBER 2022

CONTACT TRISH: ADMIN@ACRC.ORG.AU

PLEASE CONTACT GERARD FOR
TRANSPORT 02 4782 6569

Christmas Fun at Koori Playgroup



Introductions - New Staff

Hello my name is James Broughton,

As some of you may know I have recently started working at ACRC as community programs assistant. I was born in Corowa and spent my childhood around Albury/Wodonga on the Murray River. I moved to the Blue Mountains late 2019 and have loved my time here so far, I felt very welcomed and have found there to be a very strong sense of community here.

I have another job working for a not for profit based in the mid mountains called Farm It Forward which aims to address a range of social and environmental issues through growing local food and community. When I'm not working I spend my time gardening, reading and getting out into the bush to hike, bike and swim with friends.

Hi my name is Tracey Allen,

Born in Sydney, growing up my family spent every school holidays in a "shack" in Kanimbla Valley, Blackheath. I now call Wentworth Falls home. In 2013 I went to Alice Springs to live for a year, I came back to the Blue Mountains 7 years later!

I loved working in "The Centre" of Australia and spent a lot of time in the remote Aboriginal community of Papunya, working in the Art Centre and in Aged Care. I also volunteered at the primary school there, working with children at risk. I have a second job in Aged Care here in the Blue Mountains. I'm so happy to be "back home" and I enjoy swimming, reading, bushwalking, drawing, and photography in this amazing World Heritage Region.



Elders Support - Canberra Trip

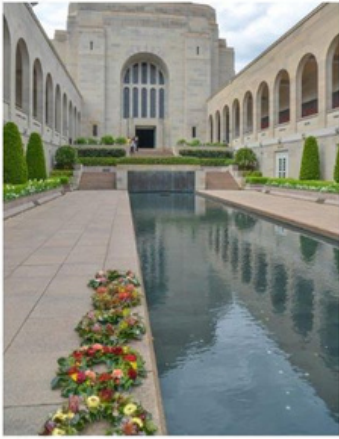


On the 19th, 20th and 21st of October 2022 a group of Blue Mountains Elders and I, set off for Canberra. We visited the War Memorial and AIATIS and gathered Family Histories and heard stories of Grandparents, Parents, Uncles and Aunties that served in the War. It was a wonderful trip, filled with delicious food, raucous laughter, comfy beds, sun filled landscape and stories that will live on in our minds and hearts for a very long time. We were joined by a number of fabulous supporters from the Council, Shayne Thompson; Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School, Michelle Abson, Jaye Muir, Glen Turner; Thrive, Stefani Oliver; Brigitte Photography, Brigitte and Tony Grant; Ponder Counselling, Natalie Packer and Brendan; Dave Rendell; Near or Far Coaches, Rod Williams.

Many thanks to the Elders for an absolutely magnificent trip, I totally enjoyed spending time with you all and getting to know everyone a little better.

Have a Wonderful Christmas Everyone, Elly Chatfield xx

Elder's Trip to: CANBERRA Oct '22



Australian War Memorial & AIATSIS



Blue Mountains ACRC NOTICE BOARD

URGENT HELP STILL NEEDED

Dear Community,

Requesting once again for information and contact details of an elderly female who previously advertised in The Gazette under “Public Notices” for photographs and information on Aboriginal Veterans in the Blue Mountains.

After loaning personal family photographs from WW1, she has repeatedly refused to return the photographs.

Any information or contact details of this person would be greatly appreciated.

Contact: (02) 4782 1387 Uncle Lenny Murphy

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

Thanks for your time.