



BLACKMAIL

FEBRUARY 2019

Manager's Message

Hello and welcome to 2019, I would like to start by saying happy New Year, a little late, but it is the first chance I have had to say it to many of you. May this year be a better year for you and your family. May this year bring closure to much hurt and open the door for healing and new beginnings for each and every one of us here in the Blue Mountains.

As we head in the second month of the year already, I would like to let the community know that we will be doing more cultural activates here at ACRC, where community are encouraged to come along and join in all the activates that we will have available in any activities that community members would like to happen if possible. Full details of these cultural activates will be placed in the next Blackmail edition. We at ACRC are wishing for more community engagement in all our programs and community activities throughout the coming year. This is why we are putting together some cultural spaces here at ACRC for all Community to enjoy and hopefully participate and add to everything that we are wishing to achieve here at ACRC and that is a culturally safe community for all.

As mentioned in previous Blackmails we are wishing to put together committees to write a book on the history to pay tribute to all those strong and prong people who worked so hard in getting ACRC off the ground and to recognise all the people and work that has taken place since the conception of ACRC. I am also seeking to put together another committee to work with me in our cultural arears here at ACRC. I am looking for community members willing to come forward and provide input into a "sacred" area for our service men and women, which will be in the garden area where the Old Catholic monument has stood for many years. For the service men and women, I currently have two committee members and we will be planning our first meeting in early March with this date being published in the next Blackmail edition for anyone to attend.

I am inviting all community members to come here to ACRC. You are all welcome. Come and see all the changes here at ACRC that myself and all staff have worked so hard to achieve. All these changes are designed to provide a cultural safe place for community members. Come and sit with our workers and Reconnect with ACRC, as this is our work place but it is your community centre.

If you would like to be a part of one or all of these committees please contact me directly on 4782 6569 or email me manager@acrc.org.au

As many of you may be aware that we were chosen by one of our funding bodies Wentworth Health Care for the Young Strong and Deadly program to have a short film made to promote the great work that we are doing, in our effort for the prevention of Alcohol and other drugs, mental health and suicide prevention.

The short film will be rolled out early February for all to see, which we will provide a link in the Blackmail and on our Facebook page when complete.

The short film produced for the Young, Strong and Deadly program will be “showcased across all other PHNs, other Government funding bodies and funding bodies across Australia”. This will hopefully lead to more funding so that we can further help our community by gaining more funds which will lead to ACRC employing my community to serve our community. It is also a possibility that the Young Strong and Deadly program can be duplicated across other regions of Australia to help in the fight against alcohol and drugs dependence, and mental health issues and suicide. The Young, Strong and Deadly program was initially designed so that it could be transported to anywhere in Australia, to help fight the fight against our youth going into incarceration and to try and stop our youth from going from juvenile justice centres and then into the big smoke. I know this is the fight that many of our community and other communities speak about all the time. We must stop suicide, we must stop all the alcohol and drug abuse and we must stop our mob being put into juvenile justice and the prison system.

I look forward to working with many of you in this fight for better treatment of our community and greater access and equity for all our community.

To finish may you all have a very good year and I look forward to seeing you at community events and hopefully seeing you come and visit ACRC and help all of us make ACRC a place where community wish to be a part of.

If you would like to volunteer and be part of what ACRC are doing for our community, please don't hesitate and contact me to discuss this great opportunity of being part of ACRC a community organisation striving to forge forward in an effort to help our community grow and self-determine our own future.

Yours sincerely,

Wayne Cornish

Manager ACRC

Wayne 4782 6569 email manager@acrc.org.au

ACRC CLOSURE.

ACRC will be closed on the 18th and 19th of February (Monday/Tuesday). This is because all staff will be attending mandatory training. The closure includes all transportation services, playgroup and even receiving calls on the day. We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Elders Support Service

Happy New Year

Good news, Commonwealth Home Support has been funded till July 2020 and new conditions they have brought down the age of cover to 45, so if you are Aboriginal & 45 or over & you want some support going to the doctors or some help around the home or if there is anything else, we can help you with let us know. We have lots of outings coming up in 2018. Look out for the February Elders Calender of Events.

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrate their birthdays this month.

Jade Pyle Elders Support Coordinator

0439595181 or 47826569

elders@acrc.org.au

FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Raylee is available Mondays to Thursdays between 9am – 5pm & Friday 9-12:30. Raylee support families with children between the ages of 0 -5yrs and Raylee is able to liaises with government departments and works with families to ensure they have a strong connection to community and support services. Please call Raylee if you would like to join the playgroup, need information about family support or just want to have a yarn.

Raylee

47826569 or 0439028652

ACRC'S ACYFS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

Another year over and another Community Christmas party done with the amazing day started with the sun shining, beautiful and hot with no rain until the event was over, with the weather holding out and with the ancestors answering our request the rain held out until the end. **THANK YOU ANCESTORS**

I feel that this year ACRC Community Christmas party was the best yet, with ACRC staff socializing with the community, without running around like headless chooks, we had Rotary there supporting our community cooking us an amazing BBQ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people. A huge thank you to Santa for doing a special visit for ACRC community Christmas party without Santa coming to our fun beautiful day it would not be the same and I would like to say a big thank you to Uncle Ed, he was Santa's helper, helping Santa with all the presents.



Once again THANK YOU Uncle Ed you are an amazing person. I would like to THANK the staff of ACRC for assisting me in getting everything set up and ready with the amazing hot wealth we had and at the end of the day with packing away without your support the day wouldn't of went so smoothly, it was amazing Thank you Wayne, Jade, Robert, Matthew and Alfie for your support on the day

I would like to Thank Rotary for their big effect, Eric cooked the BBQ and Ava for her taking food around and asking our community if they wanted something to eat and serving the food. THANK YOU Eric and Ava for your support. You both are amazing without your support ACRC Community Christmas party would not have been a great success. **Thank you so much.**

All the children enjoyed their day swimming in the pools and eating the lovely food that was cooked by Rotary. The children were so excited to hear the bell ringing and seeing Santa come around the corner with Uncle Ed. Uncle Ed was Santa's helper for the day handing Santa the presents and telling Santa the name of the Child. While Santa and uncle Ed was getting ready, the children were so excited and couldn't wait to receive their gift from Santa and Uncle Ed. We had this one little boy standing in front of Santa waiting to hear his name called out so Raylee handed Santa and Uncle Ed the little boy present. Santa called out his name he was so excited that he wouldn't let his present go the rest of the day.

I would like to thank everyone that turned up and came to the event at the pools without your support in coming and enjoying a day of fun in the sun, the day would not have been the best

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!

See you next year 2019



ACRC CHSP ELDERS XMAS PARTY 2018

As December came around all too fast leaving the turmoil and challenges from throughout the year behind, we were very grateful to have had the opportunity to come together and celebrate in the beautiful location of Hazelbrook bowling club with our beautiful elders in community.

Sylvia and Chris set the Christmas tone, providing their own decorations to make us all feel at home and in the festive season, Chris cooked up a beautiful lunch, so good that all asked for more, the deserts went down a treat and Sylvia and staff helped keep us hydrated and merry.

Full and content all were sitting back comfortable for a good yarn and catch up with each other.

Then it was time for pressies and the wonderful generous heart of acclaimed artist Uncle Ed who was supported by our xmas elves Alfie, Ray and myself handed out beautiful gifts to each and every elder, the gifts were made by Uncle Ed with beautiful cards created by our amazing Artist Pip Smith.

All in all, everyone had a lovely time with friendship and connections celebrated and strengthened.

A very big THANKYOU to the staff at Hazelbrook bowling club, your support, friendly manner and professionalism was outstanding and very generous. We are all very grateful.

To our wonderful artist and gift makers Uncle Ed & Pip Smith, you are phenomenal and we are so lucky to share this community with you both.

To my wonderful staff colleagues, Robert your transport organisation is so much appreciated, to Raylee, Faye and Alfie, you made the day the best place to be, and to our amazing manager Wayne, THANKYOU, we are ever so grateful for helping us build these opportunities for community to come together and connect.

Last but not least, to all the Elders who attended this day, I am so thankful to witness you all coming together, looking after each other, sharing the joy and the heartfelt respectful connection in building a caring community.

Bring on 2019!!!

Together let's make it a good one



THANKYOU

This Christmas we were overwhelmed by the generosity of some of our Elders and services that work with us tirelessly with humble integrity to provide our Families, Youth and Elders Toys, Hampers, Blankets, Gifts & Bags full of goodies . We are very blessed to work alongside these people to provide these things at much needed times. We look forward to working together throughout the year to build even more resources to support more of our community, as together we are stronger.



ACRC would like to **THANK** Aunty Pat Field for her wonderful work, Margarite and her team at **St Vincent De Paul Spring** and **St Thomas's** for their wonderful Hampers, we are truly grateful.

You all are amazing!!!!



Also a great big **THANK YOU** to **Gateway family Service's** for their wonderful hampers to our families. The food and toys were very much appreciated at this time for our families.



ACRC Teens, Mothers and Women Elders say a big **THANKYOU** to the wonderful Organisation **Share The Dignity** who donated 70 bags to the youth and women in our community

SHARE THE *Dignity*



*THANKYOU SO VERY MUCH TO YOU
ALL FROM ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY AT
ACRC!!!*



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admin@acrc.org.au
www.acrc.org.au
facebook.com/BlueMountainsAboriginalCultureResourceCentre/
Mon - Thurs 9am-5pm, Friday 9am - 12pm