

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 6 OF 2021 (DECEMBER)

BLACKMAIL

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre

Message From Chief Executive Officer

Warami yura – hello everyone,

We hope you are all staying safe and well!

This issue of Blackmail is celebrating yura nurugu – gatherings for Christmas and midgar gumarada – acknowledging our Family and Friends, as a Blue Mountains community.

In this issue we are including important information about the ACRC Christmas break, some good news stories and broader information on Blue Mountains summer safety and events.

In this edition we are mindful that our community is coming out of a major COVID lockdown and many yura (people) have been experiencing isolation. While ACRC has been busy providing individual support we have not been able to run as many social support activities during this time. Please be mindful that ACRC closes for our annual closure from 22 December 2021 to 6 January 2022.

After this break we are enthusiastic to relaunch our usual social activities and would love your input for any new activities that bring Elders and Families together. We are also looking to build up our community partnerships for our referral and advocacy services.

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

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Transport Enquiries
Please call Paul:

0427 710 708

ACRC will have some staff changes in the new year. As many of you may have heard, our highly valued Family worker Raylee Wall is going to America for two years with her husband. We are very proud of Raylee and will miss her very much, however we sincerely wish for her to have a wonderful adventure.

Additional changes include improving our phone system and transport services. Our new phone system will save messages for each worker including transport bookings. New guidelines for booking transport in 2022 will be Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm with 48 hours in advance. If you need to cancel or make changes over the weekend you can leave a message on 02 47826569 / transport, and we will contact you in a timely manner to confirm your changes. Please note the transport mobile number will only be used for Monday to Friday work to give staff a much-needed weekend break. As CEO I am very mindful that our staff are hugely important to the life of ACRC. These changes will help ACRC maintain this hugely important service into the future! And I would like to take this opportunity to remind people that we introduced fees this year because it is a requirement of our Transport for NSW contract. ACRC has set the fees at a minimum rate to respect our community, however transport fees must be paid on the day of travel please.

As usual, I am signing off with our special words yanama budyari gumada – walking in good spirit. Again, these words fit very nicely with yura nurugu – we are wishing everyone peaceful gatherings for Christmas and the new year, and we acknowledge our midigar gumarada – Family and Friends at this special time of the year. In saying this, if you are feeling alone, please remember to reach out to ACRC to enjoy a range of community activities in 2022. Yanu (hope to see you soon)
Venessa Possum (Nani)

King Parrots on Narrow Neck, Katoomba

PHOTOS FROM
CATH RENDELL



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

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





Message from the Board

ACRC EVICTION THREAT - The Battle the Community is Facing

In 1994 a group of local Aboriginal people saw the need for a meeting place for their community. A place promoting visibility for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the Blue Mountains, a place where everyone would be welcomed and supported.

Also, at this time there was a property called 'Clairvaux' that was owned by The Department of Community Services. A previous Blue Mountains Minister, Bob Debus had put forward a portion of 'Clairvaux' to be leased to the community to assemble a foundation to strengthen the Mountains. With this agreement between the State Government and our Aboriginal Advocates, The Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre became a reality. Moving forward to the current day, the Department of Community and Justice now want to ignore the agreement and take back their so-called property! Their argument is based on an assessment and quote for repairs to the entire property, estimating the cost at 1.3 million. A year later this quote has been updated to 2.4 million. Their financial valuations are based on their own neglect of the property.

As a further background, in 2020 there were some conversations between the occupants of the Clairvaux site and The Department of Community and Justice regarding vacating the property. These messages were mixed and would change often. Our organisation was led to believe ACRC and Gateway were safe and even going to be in a better position with the possibility to occupy more space in the building.

On the 5th of November we had a meeting with four representatives from DCJ. Our approach going into this meeting was that our situation is precarious, but we had great hopes that they would listen to our compelling proposals and extensive plans for utilising the building into the future. We were vigorously standing our ground and refusing to be backed into a corner. We were taking this approach on behalf of the community because we know our services are so important and we felt we needed to stand our ground on behalf of you all. We did point out to DCJ that we have already made significant improvements to the kitchen, offices, and gardens with no help from DCJ and we also see the potential for expanding our social workshops and Cultural activities by repairing additional areas with community working bees. We hoped they would value our aims to restore the building and gardens and to fireproof the region utilising our expert knowledges in the Aboriginal Community. We also wish to acknowledge that the property was given to the community to try to repair the damages caused by previous governments neglectful actions and our intensions are to find ways to heal past hurts and bring positivity to the site.

Message from the Board (cont)

Instead, we now find DCJ is attempting to shut us down within 13 months, and we are not being given any opportunities to put forward our proposal to retain and further improve the site.

This meeting ultimately came down to DCJ being unable to justify spending more than \$500,000 on our Organisation and our Community. They have offered a 12-month lease and some other property prospects, which were all highly inadequate for our community. This situation exemplifies a continuous pattern of the government refusing to learn from this Country's history and to choose prevention over cure or humanity over money.

We also informed DCJ that we will not accept their arguments. This property was given to the Community, and we are prepared to stand strong to achieve an outcome that our Organisation needs so we can continue to deliver to the Aboriginal Community of the Blue Mountains. We believe we all need to band together to demonstrate respect and values we deserve, and therefore we are asking everyone to stand with us to show that we are a united front.

We are organising a rally on 26th of January, our SURVIVAL DAY. This is the official date that our public statement will be starting. There has been a lot of work done in relation to building a case and planning for this event yet there is still a long list of tasks to complete, and we will continue to tick these off.

This day is known by all but for many different reasons. By joining together on this day, we are making a strong statement, that this cannot continue, and we will be bringing attention to the DCJ's contradictory statements and actions.

The Governments words say they want to 'Close the Gap' but their actions continue to widen it. With some support, ACRC can not only continue to try but we can prove how much more we are truly capable of achieving. We just need to be given the opportunity to spread our wings instead of continuously chasing our tails from the back corner.

Bernadette O'Bryan - Chair

Extension of BMACRC 2021 AGM:

ACRC was due to host the 2021 AGM this November.

During the lead up to November, rules and restrictions about gatherings were changing frequently and this made preparation difficult. The board wanted to ensure the safety of all attendees and for all community members to have the opportunity to come to the AGM.

The option to host the AGM online was discussed. The board determined that this approach would not be accessible to everyone and therefore would not be inclusive of the whole community.

Unfortunately, given these challenges our decision has been to postpone this AGM. The AGM will now be held before the end of February 2022. We would like to thank everyone for their understanding and look forward to being able to plan the AGM with more certainty for the beginning of the new year.

Yura Nurugu with Mudyin & Midagar

In modern society Christmas is celebrated in many different ways. For some it's a religious holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus, for others it's a holiday to celebrate with gifts. Whether for religious or Cultural reasons, the common thread for all that celebrate Christmas across the globe is the coming together to spend time and celebrate with family and friends.

In traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture, Christmas was not celebrated but coming together and celebrating as a mob was, and continues to be an important aspect of Culture. While held for varied reasons, these events helped in defining identity and a sense of connectedness to kinship and Culture, strengthening the mob through feelings of spiritual and Cultural belonging.

Coming Together, Being Together:

We are remarkably isolated despite all the ways we connect. And, we are isolated from ourselves as well. In today's busy modern world, we are often so engrossed in being in touch (via our mobile phones, emails, facebook, twitter and the like) that we (ironically) lose touch with people, and with ourselves. We are so busy with technology that we have almost forgotten what its like to find the quiet solitude of the self, to listen to one's soul, to be alone and at one with one's thoughts.

Christmas, Easter, birthdays, special holidays are unique opportunities to spend with those dearest to us- but they should not be the only time we make to spend with those we love.

Let us resolve to carry some of the spirit and meaning of the holiday season with us into the next year. Let us devote more time reconnecting to family, friends, ourselves. Let us bring the merriment and acts of giving and sharing with us – into every day and not just one day in the calendar.

Let us enjoy the holiday period, but let us learn from it and allow its beauty and message to seep into our everyday life too; so that we can be jolly and festive throughout the year. We need healing.



UNCLE GRAHAM MURRAY - MY STORY



I was born at the Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington on 13th February, 1944. I attended Kindergarten, Primary, Junior Technical and High School, as well as graduating from University.

During this time, I became aware of my Indigenous roots when walking through the paddock where my Grandfather, mum's dad, had a dairy farm at Mt. Victoria. It was after this time, Uncle Bob, Dad's step brother, and their cousin, Arthur started looking into the past history of our family. Finding out about our Indigenous past was both hard because of lack of records and confusing due to different stories. An example of the confusion was that Grandfather was either born in 1866 at Brewarrina or Goodooga, both in the same area or the midwife came from Brewarrina.

They found out that their great grandfather came from Scotland to Melbourne, had an involvement with an Indigenous lady, their great grandmother, down in Victoria or NSW. One of their offspring, Bob and Arthur's grandfather was William Lachlan Murray. He had a liaison with a lady our great grandmother, Annie Marie O'Brien who had 10 children and lived at Goodooga.


It was my mother, Norma who inspired me most. She worked all her life with Dad and she wanted me to attend University and become a Dr in Engineering. I think that was because Mum worked as a food person out of the refreshment rooms at Mt. Victoria on trains. She travelled to Perth on trains and to Tasmania on an apple boat with her friend who worked with her. Unfortunately, because of birth defects I could not write and school looked down on me a lot! But some teachers helped me and I got to University finally and graduated, but not with a doctorate.

Dad wanted me to just be a tradesman. He would have inspired me more, but the death of his mother due to 1920s flu did hurt him a lot.

They both worked hard and despite having very little they survived.

I grew up at Bondi Junction. Some family lived there, my Grandfather and my step grandmother, and others lived at Paddington. Dad's Uncle Royal sold papers on corner of Bondi Junction. I loved to see him when I walked home from Waverley Public School. He and my great Aunt lived in Queens St Paddington. One of my other great Aunt's lived in Paddington with her family too.

Dad was the Aboriginal side of my family. ACRC brings life most to my life now. I do miss my friends who I only see once a month, but I hope that will change with the end of lockdown. I miss Jade, Raylee and people from lower down the Mountains like Graeme Cooper and family and friends as well as Uncle Lenny from Katoomba and Danny from Hazelbrook.



My wife and I have lived in the mountains since September 1970. We had come to visit my grandparents who had moved from Mt. Victoria to Blackheath. Before then we lived in a flat at Bondi, and despite looking for a house had found nothing! We were looking in real estate places at Katoomba and found one on Lurline St where we moved into at above date. We have lived in the Mountains for 51 years. I have had two jobs that I liked in life. When I graduated with a BSc in 1965 the University asked me to help students struggling with studies. Since then I have helped students from Kindergarten, school to university with their studies until 2015. I also taught at TAFE from 1975 to 2009 which I found rewarding because of graduating students comments.

I did some school teaching as well as working for NSW public works as an electrical engineer, having graduated from university in 1967 with a degree in BE (Elect. English)

My favourite job was tutoring and helping students obtain their goals. I still had people wanting help but I just had to refuse in the end as my memory was deteriorating and years spent walking on concrete floors meant two knee replacements in 2010 and 2012.

I would take the opportunity to thank staff at the Upper Medical Centre who alerted me to the Aboriginal Cultural and Resource Centre at Katoomba and to the staff and members of the ACRC who have been both friendly and helpful since I joined.

The Royal Australian Mint announced the release of a \$2 commemorative circulating coin to mark 50 years since the first raising of the Aboriginal Flag in 1971.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag was first flown in 1971 at a land rights march in Adelaide's Victoria Square, and appeared again the following year at the beginnings of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra.

The flag was defiantly carried by Cathy Freeman when she won gold at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, and in 2000 it flew atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge as more than 250,000 people marched in solidarity beneath it.

Harold Thomas' iconic flag design is strikingly represented on the coin with the black and red fields printed over a relief pattern of miniature flags. The centre of the coin has been left 'print-free' allowing the gold of the coin's alloy to shine through as a unique representation of the central yellow sun motif.

Two million of the 50th Anniversary of the Aboriginal Flag – 2021 \$2 Coloured Circulating Coin will enter circulation over the coming months.

Rolled coins will be available through the Mint's authorised distributor network from Thursday 2 December 2021.



The Gully

The Gully in Katoomba, formerly home to a large Indigenous population, finally has a plan of management which recognises the area's vital importance to the Dharug and Gundungurra people who once called it home.

And it will finally shed the last remains of its unhappy past when the former car racing track is recategorised from sportsground to natural area.

Aunty Carol Cooper, who grew up in the Gully in a family of nine until they were removed in the 1950s to make way for the racetrack, said the management plan was "fantastic".

"I am very happy that the racetrack will be maintained as a walking and cycling path for everyone to enjoy this beautiful place. I am also pleased to see that there will be toilets at last and that money has been budgeted for this," she said.

"I would also like there to be a dedicated space for Aboriginal performances and I hope this will be included in the new Cultural facilities. We have some amazing women's dancing groups and we also like to see the men performing."

The Gully had long been an important meeting and camping place for Aboriginal people pre-1788. Gundungurra people established a permanent residential settlement there from at least 1894.

In 1957, the residents were evicted when a group of local businessmen, backed by council, thought it would make a good venue for a car racing track. Some of the residents relocated elsewhere in Katoomba, others moved away never to return.

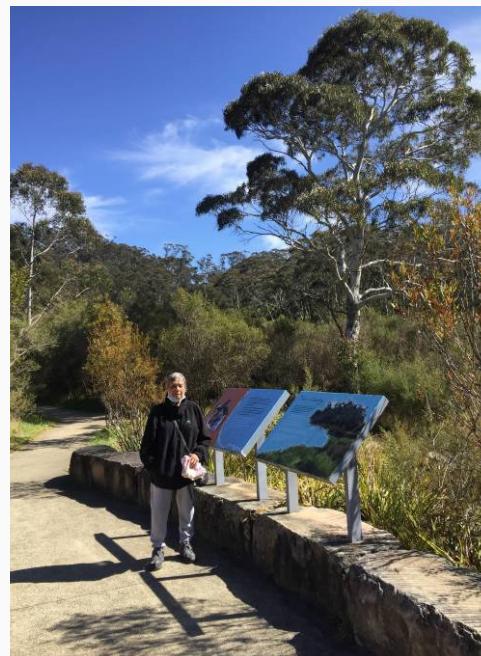
The destruction of the community was finally recognised and The Gully declared an Aboriginal Place in 2002.

There has been extensive consultation during the formation of the plan of management, including with many traditional owners.

A petition to save the Catalina Park Raceway was submitted to council in response to the plans to recategorise it to "natural area" by some who were concerned that it was being "wiped from history books".

Council has determined that The Gully is an Aboriginal Place and any request for recognition of the motor racing history would have to be considerate of the Aboriginal Cultural significance of the site.

As Aunty Carol put it: "What it all boils down to is inclusion. Without that there is never going to be peace. Everyone needs to feel like they are someone. There are many stories still to be told by those of us who lived in the Gully. My memories are of a community that got on together and shared what we had."



Source: Blue Mountains Gazette

Swimming Safety

Children should be actively supervised whenever around water. Drowning can happen quickly and silently. Supervision is the best protection against child drowning. Stay close and within arm's reach at all times.

Royal Life Saving recommends the following Keep Watch safety tips to keep your child safe from drowning:

1. Actively supervise children around water
2. Restrict Access
3. Teach water awareness
4. Learn how to resuscitate

These should not be used individually but together to maximise child safety. If one line of defence fails, the other prevention measures will be actively working to prevent child drowning.

Royal Life Saving has a range of information and resources for child safety in various locations.

There are many scenarios where your knowledge of water safety is crucial:

- Home pool safety
- Portable pool safety
- Child bath time safety
- Child safety on the farm
- Keep Watch at Public Pools

Find more information on each of these at

<https://www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au/Pages/swimming-safety/swimming-safety.aspx>



Kids can't help themselves
around water. **You need to.**



La Nina Declared

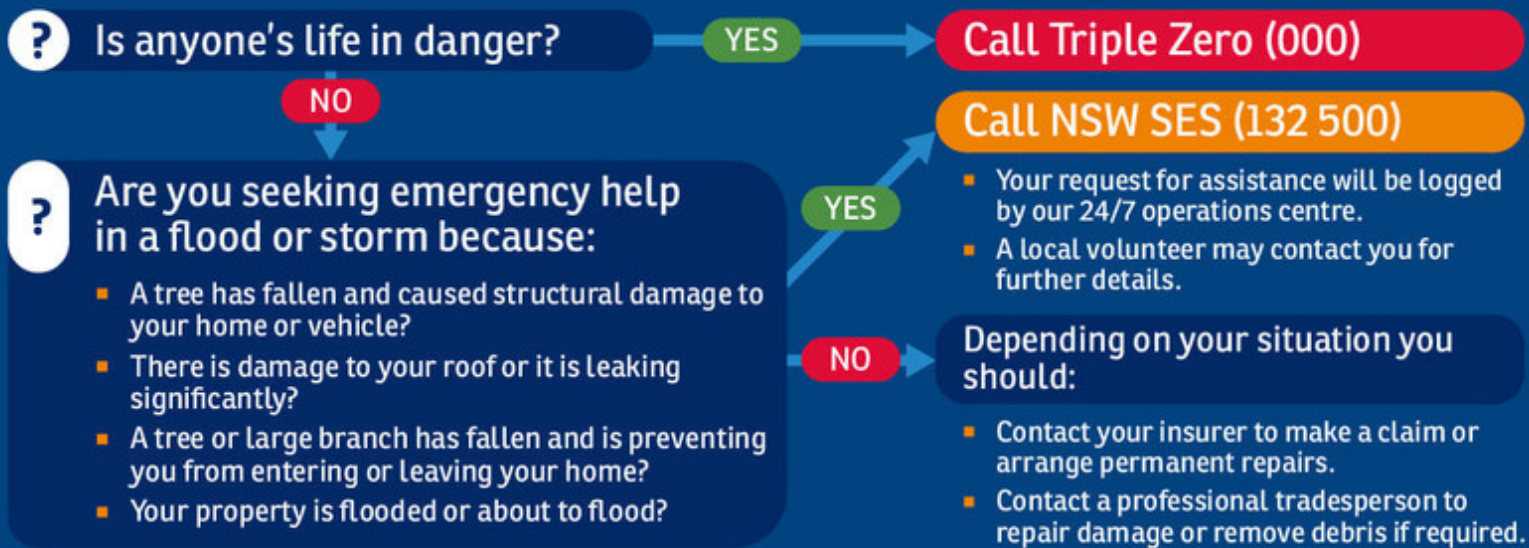
LaNina Floods Storms

The Bureau of Meteorology has declared a La Niña has formed in the tropical Pacific and is likely to persist until at least the end of January 2022. La Niña will result in stronger than average trade winds and more moisture over northern and eastern Australia. GetReady now for floods and storms, don't wait till it's too late. Find more information on how you can be Flood Safe and Storm Safe on the NSW SES website: <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/>

8 tips to prepare for storms:

- Maintain your yard and balcony by securing or putting away items that could blow around in strong winds.
- Clean your gutters and downpipes and drains regularly to prevent blockages.
- Trim trees or branches that could potentially fall on your home or property.
- Fix any damage to your roof including broken or missing tiles.
- Check your insurance policy is current and adequate.
- Make a plan for your family that outlines what you would do in an emergency.
- Put together an emergency kit.
- Listen to your local radio station and other media for weather warnings.

For more information on La Niña visit the BoM website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>



WHEN TO CALL NSW SES

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN
FLOOD, STORM AND TSUNAMI

132 500





Family Support

Hello Blue Mountains Community,

It's with regret that I write this message to you all, to let you know that the 22nd of December will be my last day at BMACRC. I will be moving to America for 2 years with my husband Geoff. Geoff has been given a Job opportunity that he could not refuse, but my daughters will be here, so if you ever come across them say hello.

It was the hardest decision that I had to make because working at BMACRC has been a part of my life for 8 years. I have had the pleasure to be taught by so many from our Community and I have seen BMACRC go through so many changes (Bosses, Staff, Board Members and Community Members) this has been my life and family.

I want to personally thank Venessa Possum for her support without you BMACRC would not be here. YOU ARE AMAZING, I love you. You mean so much to me, there is not enough words that I could ever say or show you how much I am grateful in knowing you in the short time we have had.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the bosses that ACRC have had, and your support over the years Thank you to Faye Skeen, you have come a long way since I have been here, you are an amazing person, worker, and friend. I know that you have celebrated 10 years here and you are the longest worker at BMACRC, and I know you have many more years to come.

I have seen workers come and go, thank you all, Jade Pyle, Maud (Sebria), Jo Clancy, Annette Lavender, Hannah Lange, Amie Smith, Alfie, Robert Moyle, Mathew Tempest, Cassie Martin, Paul (Driver), Auntie Marie, Auntie Bev Eaton, Shane Demial, Tanya Wallace, and Uncle Ed Walker. If I have for gotten anyone, please forgive me there was so many that I can't remember them all.

To all the staff here today at BMACRC thank you all, it's been amazing time working alongside of you all THANK YOU. One of the greatest regrets is leaving all the children that I have had the pleasure in holding and watching them grow into the beautiful little and big people, they have become. I know I have no grandchildren yet, but these little munchkins have been my grandchildren in my eyes. I have had the pleasure in having their love, there friendship and the joy of being a part of their lives. Thank you to all the mums, dads and grandparents that have given me the opportunity to do so. These little munchkins are the ones I will miss the most. While I am writing this letter, I am starting to get very emotional, so I'm going to leave it at that.

Remembering over the last 8 years, how much you all mean to me. THANK YOU SO MUCH
Love you all, Raylee Wall.

Elders Support

During COVID lockdown ACRC Staff Lex Dadd, Paul Glass, David Rendell and Aunty Elly have focused on individual support for our Elders community. This means we have used the funding normally attached to Social Support – events to provide essential services during lockdown.

However, now that we are out of lockdown our main role will return to individual support as advocacy and referrals and medical transport. Overall CHSP Community Support Program is funding for small jobs, given plenty of notice, and limited availability of our staff.

We ask that you understand we are not available for as much in person deliveries and maintenance as we were for the last few months. We will also return to some exciting new social activities, and we have been working hard behind the scenes to create some exciting Elders events for the new year.

We are also now Aged Care compliant – with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, which was a brilliant effort by our CEO.

Elly Chatfield

Smoke Between Trees

An intimate portrait of a reluctant Grandfather on a heart-warming journey of transformation - one that will lead him back to a home unlike any he ever imagined.

Director

Michael Joy

Writers

Michael Joy, Mieke van Opstal

Stars: Tiriela Mora, Elly Chatfield, Joanne Samuel

This is now filming at Mt Vic Flicks. Please click on below link to find session times and prices.

<https://mountvicflicks.com.au/sessions/smoke-between-trees-q-a-screening/>



Transport

Dear Transport clients,

As mentioned in our CEO's message ACRC we introduced fees this year because it is a requirement of our Transport for NSW contract. We are also developing processes to improve our transport services.

The following changes will help ACRC maintain this hugely important service into the future!

- New guidelines for booking transport in 2022 will be **48 hours in advance**.
- Please phone the office 02 47826569 **MONDAY to FRIDAY 8am to 4pm**.
- If you need to cancel or make changes over the weekend you can leave a message on this number and transport will contact you in a timely manner to confirm your changes. The mobile number will only be used for Monday to Friday work.
- Transport fees **must be paid on the day of travel please**.

PLEASE NOTE: BMACRC Community Transport will be operating up until and including 22 December 2021. Transport will then close for two weeks and resume on 7 January 2022.

TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE BOOK JANUARY TRANSPORT BY 22ND DECEMBER 2021

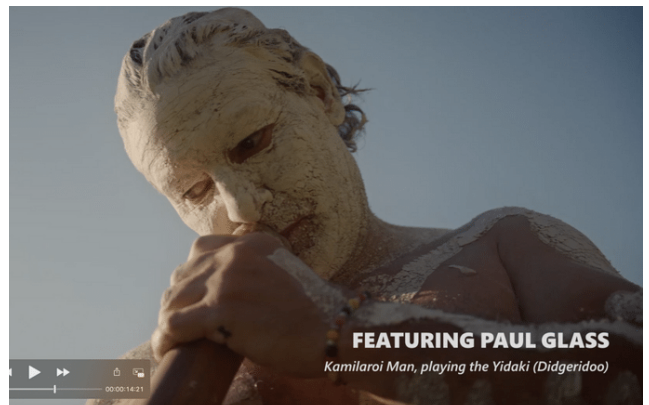
ACRC Transport would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Microsoft's Xbox 20th anniversary livestream featured an incredible performance of Halo's iconic theme music by the Sydney Youth Orchestra and Kamilaroi man Paul Glass.

It was a very Australian event, and it was incredible to watch. Performed at the Royal Botanical Gardens, on Gadigal Land, and featuring the Sydney Harbor and the famous Opera House in the background, it was one of the highlights of Microsoft's event.

Watch the full video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DFXJzJ_lvM



Meeting of the Australian and Aotearoa-New Zealand Foreign Ministers.

For the first time, the Blue Mountains are hosting a meeting of the Australian and Aotearoa-New Zealand Foreign Ministers.

It meant so much to me and to my friend Nanaia Mahuta MP - Hauraki-Waikato that the elders of the Darug and Gundungurra peoples welcomed us to their country with a smoking ceremony, a welcome from Aunty Sharon Halls and Aunty Carol Cooper and a performance by talented young dancers, just as I was welcomed in Wellington in April by Māori, tangata whenua of Aotearoa-New Zealand.



Last year, Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand established the Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand Indigenous Collaboration Arrangement. This arrangement was signed by Minister Mahuta and Australia's Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, in recognition of the unique role of our Indigenous peoples in the identity of our respective countries, their rich Cultures and languages, as well as their ancestral, spiritual and continuing connections to the land and sea.

As friends and partners, Australia and New Zealand are committed to a continuing Indigenous collaboration relationship.

Nanaia Mahuta MP - Hauraki-Waikato Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australian High Commission, New Zealand
indigenous.gov.au Ken Wyatt

Source: Marise Payne



Supporting Aboriginal communities in Western NSW

On 9th September 2021 Uncle Lex Dadd, Community Cultural Worker at Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre (ACRC) contacted BM People for Reconciliation (BMP4R) to ask for the group's support in collecting food and donations for a trip he was making to support Aboriginal community members in Western NSW. Uncle Lex was first heading to Dubbo to link up with Aunty Pat Field who was already there with an organisation, Youth Off the Streets. Uncle Lex had been invited by community members to bring his puppets (which are like the Yarramundi puppets) and do some work to raise community morale and he wanted to take with him as much as he could to support local people.

BMP4R put the word out to our network of members and other contacts and in a few days' non-perishable groceries were being dropped on the verandah of BMP4R Convenor, Lyn Bevington. Within a week of the request being made the verandah was full of boxes. Lyn said "The community response was incredibly generous with quality food being dropped". People also made donations and by 18th September when Uncle Lex headed west he had a large trailer full of food and face masks plus \$6075 in donations. ACRC organized a Covid safe plan to ensure the safety of all involved.

Uncle Lex found a huge amount of community need in Dubbo, Collarenebri and Mudgee. For example, in Collarenebri it is a 2-hour bus trip to the shops and was made more difficult with Covid restrictions. Word spread quickly that there was someone who could help and people contacted Uncle Lex with requests for food, cleaning products, toiletries and other items so he appreciated having cash with which he could meet needs. He also made some videos with his puppets encouraging people to get vaccinated and these were then distributed across the community.

On 6th October an exhausted Uncle Lex told the monthly meeting of BMP4R (via zoom) about his trip and how grateful people were to receive support. He also said how sad he felt to see his people really struggling to meet their needs. He thanked BMP4R for the great support and for raising so much money and food in such a short time.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire/Ambulance/Police
Emergencies 000, TTY 106
Bush Fire Information Line
1800 679 737

State Emergency Service 132 500
Energy Emergency
If life threatening call 000.
Contact your local distributor.
Sydney Water 13 20 90

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL HELP

Blue Mountains Hospital 4784 6500
Springwood Hospital 4784 6500
Lithgow Hospital 6350 2300
Nepean Hospital 4734 2000
Westmead Children's Hospital
9845 0000
After Hours Health Services
afterhourshealth.com.au or contact
Health Direct 1800 022 222
Poisons Information Line 13 11 26

CRISIS HELPLINES

Lifeline 131 114
Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659
467 Parent Line 1300 130 052
Kid's Helpline 1800 551 800
Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
Domestic Violence Line
1800 656 463
1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732
24-hours NSW Rape Crisis Centre
1800 424 017
Mental Health Access Line
1800 011 511
Children's Legal Service Hotline
1800 101 810
Health Care Interpreter Service
Western Sydney Local Health District
9912 3800 (24 hours)

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Lifeline Telephone Crisis Support
13 11 14
Mountains Care (Emergency Crisis
Relief) 4720 6100
Gateway Family Services Blaxland
4720 6500; Katoomba 4782 5326
Provides emergency food vouchers
and financial relief.

Thrive Services 4782 1555
Subsidised food parcels, donated
fresh food, assistance with utility
bills. Salvos Connect 1300 371 288
For vouchers to assist with financial
help and purchasing food and
clothing. Suicide Call Back Service
1300 659 467

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Support Services can
provide emergency financial relief,
gas and electricity vouchers and
some food relief.

Thrive Services 4782 1555
thriveservices.org.au
Gateway Family Services Blaxland
4720 6500; Katoomba 4782 5326
gatewayfamilyservices.org.au
Family Drug Support (24 hours)
1300 368 186 fds.org.au.
Western Sydney Family Referral
Service 1300 403 373
relationshipsnsw.org.au

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

Neighbourhood Centres provide
local information, host groups, run
courses, and provide internet
access, low cost loans and
emergency relief, volunteering
opportunities and much more.

Belong Blue Mountains - Katoomba
Neighbourhood Centre 4782 1117
kncinc.org.au
Belong Blue Mountains - Lower
Mountains Neighbourhood Centre
4739 1164 lmnc.org.au
Belong Blue Mountains - Mid
Mountains Neighbourhood Centre
4759 2592 mmnc.org.au
Blackheath Area Neighbourhood
Centre 4787 7770 banc.org.au
Springwood Neighbourhood
Centre 4751 3033 sncc.org.au
Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre
4754 4050
winmaleeneighbourhoodcentre.com.au

The following websites contain
information relating to bush fire
and emergency management in
NSW:

NSW Rural Fire Service
rfs.nsw.gov.au Fires Near Me NSW
rfs.nsw.gov.au/fireinformation/fires-near-me
Fire & Rescue NSW fire.nsw.gov.au
NSW State Emergency Service
ses.nsw.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)
bom.gov.au NEIGHBOURHOOD
SAFER PLACES Are a place of last
resort during a bush fire
emergency. They are to be used
when all other options in your bush
fire survival plan can't be put into
action safely. Go to
[rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/
neighbourhood-safer-places](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places) to get
more information on
Neighbourhood Safer Places in the
Blue Mountains LGA.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Health Services

Warami N'Allowah Mittigar

Darug

Hello Come in , sit down friend

Yangoo Borga - Mandoo- Ginee Yaddung- Gee

Gundungurra

For coming here today we say thankyou

Free Health services for First Nations women

4 massages per year

8 Accupuncture treatment per year

Counselling

Doctors and Health nurse available

Resource computers, printing and photocopying

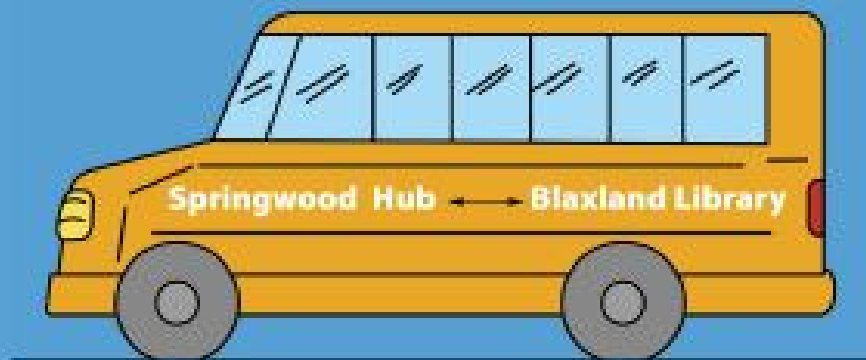
**Assistance with phone credit and emergency data
support**

**Blue Mountains Womens Health &
Resource Centre**

Come in for a yarn and a cuppa sometime

Phone 47825133

free bus service - information



FREE BUS SERVICE DURING SPRINGWOOD LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

As part of the Springwood Library refurbishment project Blue Mountains Library is pleased to announce the start of a weekly, free, return bus service, sponsored by Blue Mountains City Council. The service will provide a return trip between Springwood Hub and Blaxland Library allowing customers to access the larger collection of resources at Blaxland Library and to spend roughly an hour at Blaxland Library before returning to Springwood Hub.

Who can catch this bus: Seniors and people without own transport

Accessibility: Wheelchair accessible

Commencement Date: Thursday 9 December

When: Every Thursday* until further notice. * There will be no service on 30 December during the Library closure

Times: There will be two departure times:
i) 9.45am departure from the Hub, returning 11.15am
ii) 10.30am departure from the Hub, returning 12pm

Cost: Free

Do You Need to Book: No, but places will be limited

Vaccination: Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required until Public Health Orders change

Check-In: Required

Other: Staff will be on hand to assist at Springwood Hub

library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au