

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE JANUARY - APRIL 2023

BLACKMAIL

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre

Message from the Board and Management

Hello everyone, we hope you are all staying safe, doing well and having fun while you're at it.

The ACRC staff and Board are extremely proud to announce we are officially in our new home. It has been very difficult and challenging, but everyone persisted to juggle the move, staff changes and continued to fulfil their individual roles and responsibilities. Even with everyone's effort there has been disruptions and unforeseen complications that we apologise for if it has impacted anyone, or the service provided.

Unfortunately, we cannot have a grand opening party due to DA restrictions, but we are working on ways to open the centre for all to enjoy. Some plans will be easier to get started, such as a welcoming space for gatherings, art, lunches or just a cuppa as well as a computer room for community use.

Other plans are going to take time and a lot of intensive work beforehand, like playgroup, movie nights and other activities for all ages. These plans are a few of many and it has been difficult to not get swept away in the fun and exciting possibilities.

**BMACRC
NEW
OFFICE**

37 Whitton
Street
Katoomba
NSW 2780

PO BOX 334
Katoomba NSW
2780

Transport
Enquiries
Please call
02 4782 6569



Message from the Board and Management continued

While we are now in a huge office, and we now have the opportunity to grow, we are still a tiny team. As much as we would love and look forward to having to have a busy space now and understand everyone is also excited to visit, we also need to try and minimise the impact on the day-to-day work. So, we are hoping for a few open days over the next couple of weeks will be a good compromise.

If you would be interested in a squiz or a tour then **pop over to the new office on Fridays** where we will have tea, coffee and bikkies with tour guides and the opportunity to use your imagination to visualise the exciting prospects we can provide for all and make a positive impact here in the Mountains Aboriginal Community.

Some other recent changes for ACRC is staff and Board. As everyone would be aware at this time, Venessa sadly had to move on from ACRC to pursue other adventures. Corina also needed to step down from her role as alternate Director. We are extremely grateful for the amazing effort that Venessa and Corina put into the organisation and the mountains that are now bumps due to the dedicated work from two proud Aboriginal woman that we were privileged to have walk beside us.

With all of this groundwork being done, it gives the Board time to breathe, and Bernadette has stepped down from Chair to hold an acting manager position for the interim. Aunty Marie is now Chair and we are proud to have Dianne Royce join us as a new Director. Everything is running smoothly, and we are slowly catching up with COA applications being opened and other matters that dominated the Boards time being completed.

Thank you, until next time.

Survival Day 2023



Transport

Hi Community,

I'd like to start by giving a big thanks all of our clients who helped us update our files, by providing the information we requested promptly. This really helped us get an important, albeit tedious task delt with quickly.

Even though we have just moved to a new office, Transport is still operating as normal. Please remember though, as we are a small fleet with only a handful of drivers, it is not only important to book ahead, but it is also essential to give us as much notice as possible if you need to change or cancel your booking. Please do not wait until the driver is at your door to do this.

We will always do whatever we can to accommodate your transport requirements and following the above guideline helps us do more for all of our clients.

Email Transport at transport@acrc.org.au

Thank you !



Community Programs - Family and Youth

Hello Community,

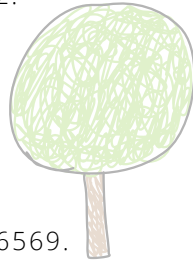
As you all know, we have moved into our new building! This means we can move towards doing more for the community! We are hoping to excel in all areas, but especially in helping our ACRC Families and Youth.



We sent out a survey about the execution of Koori Playgroup and ACRC family activities and got some amazing feedback explaining what works best for our community and what the families want us to do! We are putting them in motion, and we want you all to know that your opinion and say is being heard and being taken deeply into consideration and deeply appreciated!

We have many fun things on this school term for Koori Playgroup, including **Family Tree art activities for International Day of Families and for World Environment Day**, an excursion to Gloria Park through the bush at Hazelbrook talking about the environment and connecting back to Country.

We have also started a Term 2 partnered Girls Group called Our Place with Gateway Family services, for Indigenous girls aged 8-12. We are incredibly excited to start this program to create a safe space and do some art and cultural learning to kick-start supporting the youth in the Blue Mountains area.



If you would like to attend Koori Playgroup or need any family support, please contact me via email familyandyouth@acrc.org.au or call and press 3 - 02 4782 6569.

Trish - Family and Youth Support



Koori Playgroup

01/05/23

CANCELLED

11am - 1pm
08/05/23

Yarning circle & Mother's Day gift activity

11am - 1pm
15/05/23

International Day of Families -
Family tree art activity

11am - 1pm
22/05/23

Kid smoothie making day - Kids
make their own fruit smoothies

11am - 1pm
29/05/23

Messy Arts and Craft Day - Kids get
messy with painting/art

11am - 1pm
05/06/23

World Environment day - Excursion
to park to talk about environment

12/06/23

CANCELLED - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

11am - 1pm
19/06/23

Elder visit day - get an elder to come
in to do an activity with the kids

11am - 1pm
26/06/23

End of term fun activity

Our New Office...



Community Programs - Elders

Hi there everyone.

It has been a whirlwind of emotions since our last edition.

Sorry business has shrouded our Community with two of our Elder's passing, Pip Smith and Uncle Gus Wenberg. We send all our love and condolences to family and friends, Pip and Uncle Gus are and will always be very missed.

The Mootang Tarami Team, Donna Jory, Rae and various clinicians have joined us for monthly Health Workshops. These workshops will continue throughout the year, with a delicious lunch and transport provided.

There are more Elders lunches, outings and activities on the horizon. Tracey and I are very much looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Elly Chatfield Elders Support

I



Elders Lunch & Events

10am - 1:30pm
10/05/23

Mootang Tarami @
Lawson

Wed

10am - 1:30pm
14/06/23

Mootang Tarami @
Lawson

Wed

Blue Mountains ACRC Notice Board



We are really sorry !

When moving office many of our phone extensions were not available but we are gradually fixing voicemails and missed calls.



Attention Aboriginal Elders

If you are not registered on **My Aged Care** and have an AC (Aged Care) number, please contact Aunty Elly or Tracey and they will arrange a time to sit down and start the process ! We are happy to also come around when the assessor interviews you to find out what your needs are both now and in the future. Thank you to the people that have been through this process already.



NEW Website almost ready to launch... (Preview below) Artists profiles

If you would like to be featured on the new ACRC Website as an Aboriginal Artist in this region please contact **office@acrc.org.au**



For Notice Board Contributions
Please email: admin@acrc.org.au

Let's focus on improving Indigenous Australian eye care together



By purchasing a limited-edition frame, featuring artwork by contemporary Aboriginal artist Sarrita King of the Gurindji Nation, \$25 is donated to

Specsavers



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**

Specsavers Katoomba
98 Katoomba St (Opposite Rivers)
Tel 4782 4688