



# Blackmail



We Proudly Acknowledge and Respect the  
Dharug and Gundungurra People  
As Traditional Owners of this Land

## ACRC ELDERS LUNCH

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OF MAY**

**12- 2pm**

**AT BLUE MOUNTAINS ABORIGINAL CULTURE & RESOURCE  
CENTRE**

**Spaghetti Bolognese & Apricot Chicken  
cooked by Aunty Bev Ward**

*As winter approaches, let us know if you need any support accessing  
services that can assist with blankets, food, gas & electricity bills and  
more ....*

Call Jade on 47826569 or 0439595181 for catering & transport.

## ACRC ELDERS MORNING TEA

**TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OF MAY**

**10 AM - 12 NOON**

**Sweet Potato & Ginger Soup or Ham & Pea Soup**

*Come in for a yarn*

**AT BLUE MOUNTAINS ABORIGINAL CULTURE & RESOURCE  
CENTRE**

Call Jade on 47826569 or 0439595181 for catering & transport.

### **Elders Dates for May 2019:**

**Elders Lunch, Tuesday: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of June**

**Morning Tea Tuesday: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of June**

**Outing to be announced!!!**

### **NEW ACRC OFFICE HOURS**

From the 1st May 2019

Monday to Thursday 9am-4pm

Closed 12.30-1.00pm

Friday 9am-1pm



## Message from the Board

It has been a busy start to the year for the new Board of Directors.

The Board and staff have participated in two days of training led by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations on running an Indigenous corporation and their legal responsibilities.

The Directors spent two days at Lithgow with the support of Lithgow Workies Club, who provided facilities, to allow us to begin to develop a long term plan for the future of BMACRC. This plan will be shared with members as it evolves but is built around the fact that we now need better spaces and places in which to carry out a wider range of programs to support as many members as possible of our community across the whole of the mountains and from the very young to older members. We will look forward to your ideas on our proposals.

One of the plans will be around learning ‘to do things proper way’ with opportunities to learn and build culture not only for ourselves as a community but to help develop understanding within the broader community.

The Board is making a lot of effort to ensure that there is openness as to how the money which we receive from funding bodies is spent and to ensure that spending benefits as many members as possible. We have met with our Auditors and they have undertaken to be available to give a full and open report at all general meetings and annual general meetings and to answer questions from members.

The manager has been asked to discuss with staff the issues of the Community room and facilities, answering of telephones and a uniform dress for staff following last year’s meeting of Elders within community with representatives of the Board. The results of these discussions should be seen over the next few weeks.

This publication will, each issue now contain a report from the Board and feedback on Blackmail, its format and the articles will always be welcome.

As the Directors begin a series of meetings with our funding bodies we need to remember that BMACRC began as a place for community to meet and we do not want that to be forgotten.

As ACRC has grown we have gained more staff but we also need volunteers to help our dedicated hard working workers with their programs. Please feel free to offer to help and to visit. Your Board members are also volunteers who give of their time for community.

Finally, we would acknowledge the Darug and Gundungarra peoples, in particular their Elders, the traditional owners and custodians of this country on which we live and work, we would like to apologise for the use of the titles of ‘Uncle and Aunty’ used in the recent article and photograph in the Blue Mountains Gazette. We are cautious of the use of these titles and acknowledge the learning and respect that is required for people to use these titles. It does, however, highlight the need to educate the wider community about our ways and culture.

You are welcome to correspond with the Board through the letter box in the Community room at ACRC.

Yindyamangidyal,

Directors

## Spotlight on the Board

### Robert Harvey

Robert was born in Adelaide South Australia, a Narungga man, Robert has lived in Sydney for many years and in the Blue Mountains for the last 15 years.

After leaving school Robert worked in the retail sector for many years, until he received a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis many years ago and then moved up to the mountains for health reasons.

Robert is a keen photographer and has completed a diploma of Photography and Photo Imaging from TAFE, also has completed a diploma of PC and Network support and has numerous Statements of attainments in photography and First Aid.

If at any time you need contact for any questions or concerns, Robert can be reached at the following contact details:

M 0437 699 639

Email: [rob1969robertharvey@outlook.com.au](mailto:rob1969robertharvey@outlook.com.au)



## Elder of the Month

### Aunty Val Aurisch

### Darug Elder

Born in Crown Street Women's Hospital, Surry Hills in 1938. She is 1 of 8 siblings who all grew up in Parramatta. Mum and Dad moved to the Mountains in 1957. Aunty Val is a mother of 4 children and grandmother of 7 grandchildren. Aunty Val married in 1962 at St Hilda's Church in Katoomba to Edward George Aurisch. In the late 1960's Aunty Val and Edward fostered 2 Aboriginal girls from Queensland. Aunty Val is a local Darug Elder who has a lot of knowledge of Katoomba and surrounds and has included these memories along with her life story in a book called 'A memoir of Aunty Val's life'.





## Managers Message

Well, hello and welcome to everyone, as the cold weather closes in. I would like to congratulate all the Olympians who attended this year's elder Olympics at Port Macquarie. This year was the fourth year in a row that ACRC has fielded a team, so a big thankyou to the directors for their support and Jade and Raylee for all your hard work for our fabulous elder Olympians. I would also like to remind people that the Naidoc awards and future Naidoc events are coming up soon, so if you know

anyone who has achieved something inspirational please be sure to nominate them for a Naidoc award. For further information on the Naidoc awards and Naidoc art festival please find at the back of the Newsletter. For all other Naidoc events be sure to keep your eye out. We will have flyers out early next month and we will also keep you updated on coming events on our Facebook page

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



Other news our new dance circle is now complete, so in future months we will be able to hold cultural events for kids and community members to share and learn culture, while we sit around the fire and enjoying a meal together. Community members will also be able to come and practice dance when they desire. This dance circle is another great initiative that we would like share with the community as we strive to ensure that ACRC is a welcoming place for all, where everyone feels welcome and wanted. I would like the dance circle be named in honour, after a local community member in recognition of all their contribution to our community. If you have any ideas on how you would like this process to take place please let me know and we can then take these ideas to the elders in our community before commencing nominations. Once all nominating processes are in place and someone has been selected, we will hold a special opening day of recognition for the dance circle and the sacred place we are trying to create here at ACRC.



Wayne 4782 6569 email [manager@acrc.org.au](mailto:manager@acrc.org.au)

*Yours sincerely,*  
Wayne Cornish



SUSTAINABILITY

**BLACKMAIL**

Our newsletter is distributed free of charge monthly. We also encourage our members to receive their newsletter electronically. This service provides a faster, more reliable & environmentally-friendly alternative to hard copies while keeping costs down. Please email Jade Pyle at [elders@acrc.org.au](mailto:elders@acrc.org.au) to subscribe to our online version.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### 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**

Cnr Great Western Highway and Woodlands Rd, Katoomba

**Springwood Hospital 4784 6500**

7 Huntley Grange Road, Springwood

**Lithgow Hospital 6350 2300**

Cnr Col Drewe Drive and Great Western Highway, Lithgow

**Nepean Hospital 4734 2000**

Derby St, Kingswood

**Westmead Children's Hospital**  
9845 0000

Cnr Hawkesbury Road and Hainsworth St, Westmead

**After Hours Health Services**

[afterhourshealth.com.au](http://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 Help Line** (Free Call) **1800 551 800**

**Beyond Blue 1300 224 636**

Provides information and help when you're feeling depressed or anxious.

**Domestic Violence Line 1800 656 463**

**1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732** 24-hour sexual assault, family and domestic violence counselling line for anyone who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence and sexual assault.

**NSW Rape Crisis Centre 1800 424 017**

24/7 counselling for people who have been sexually assaulted or abused.

**Mental Health Access Line 1800 011 511**

**Children's Legal Service Hotline 1800 101 810**

Criminal legal advice if you're under 18.

**Health Care Interpreter Service**

Western Sydney Local Health District  
**9912 3800** (24 hours).

### CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Helpline **13 21 11**, TTY **9633 7698**, National Relay Service **133 677 24** hours/7 days. Ring to report suspected child abuse.

**Child Abuse Prevention Service (CAPS)**

**9716 8000** [childabuseprevention.com.au](http://childabuseprevention.com.au)

Provides the Safe Children, Safe Families program which includes workshops for childcare workers, parents and children.

**Mandatory Reporter Guide (for mandatory reporters) – ChildStory Reporter**  
[reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s](http://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s).

Mandatory reporters (professionals in contact with children) should use the Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG) to guide their decision making and determine whether or not to report to the Child Protection Helpline (see website above).

**Western Sydney Family Referral Service (FRS) 1300 403 373** [relationshipsnsw.org.au/support-services/western-sydneyfamily-referral-service/](http://relationshipsnsw.org.au/support-services/western-sydneyfamily-referral-service/)

**FRS supports families with vulnerable children and young people, linking them to appropriate community services.**

*More contacts to be published in the next edition.*



## **BLUE MOUNTAINS ABORIGINAL ELDERS OLYMPICS**

Pickups started 6 am Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 2 vehicles travelling. When all the Blue Mountains Warriors were on board for transportation, excitement filled the vehicles as they were off to the Mid North Coast 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Aboriginal Elders Olympics in Port Macquarie. Talk made the 5& a half hours go quick, we all bonded! Now a team!!!

We had a lunch stop by the river at Bulahdelah, then back in the cars onwards to our first destination for the Meet & Greet at Biripai Local Aboriginal Land Council with Uncle Bill & Uncle Morrie, welcoming and embracing us on to their country. A feast was laid out for afternoon tea for our arrival, we were shown around their land and we were amazed by all their beautifully cared for land, there was bush tucker, a dancing circle and more, a grand achievement in caring for country. We were all inspired by the possibilities. Farewelling all, it was off to our next destination the Mercure Hotel to settle into our rooms. When we had all freshened up we made our way to dinner at Port City Bowling Club. Once fed it was back to our rooms for an early night as the games were on the next day.



All up and ready, breakfast at the buffet at the hotel, it was off to Stuart Park dressed in our new team shirts. The Blue Mountains Elders Warriors had arrived. The sun shone brightly, looking to be a wonderful day. After gathering and signing on at 8:30 the opening ceremony and Welcome to Country started with a beautiful cultural performance & then we had a minute silence (for our Elders who had passed). Then with our team banners held before us, we all marched around the oval. Then at 9:45, let the games begin!!! All 36 teams performed 8 events throughout the day, with a morning tea and lunch break between. First was pass the football through a hole from 5 meters away, a challenge for eyes and distance throwing.

Next came Softball toss, points awarded for each ball landing in a bucket, then came the Quoits fun challenge with Uncle Gus inspiring the team with some very close throws, then there was the hockey stick relay, tricky keeping the eyes on the ball, then shooting hoops we were giving our best shots. We did well in the Bean Bag Toss, with 105 points for our team better than the year before. Finally came the walking relay and the Egg and baton race with all 36 teams joining in the fun and games. Ending a day filled with collective togetherness and a celebration of ourselves and culture. Closing announcements formally ending the games with the team from Nambucca Heads accruing winning points, becoming the hosts for the 2020 Aboriginal Elders Olympics.

Back to our hotel for a well-earned relax to relieve our muscles and get ready for the presentation dinner. At the presentation dinner at Port Panthers The Werrin Elders hosted the night with awards given out and cultural men's dancers performed, and great food beautifully cooked, ending the night was a Werrin DJ getting the teams up dancing.

Then it was back to our rooms for our last night to dream of an excellent day shared by all. We all did our best effort, all 36 teams with lots of us catching up with many friends and family, joining in with 100s competing, having fun all our Elders. We celebrated all who attended to make the 2019 Aboriginal Elders Olympics a day to remember. A truly beautiful day! Our team is looking forward to meeting up again with our sisters and brothers at Nambucca Heads. To our Elders Team and all the 36 teams I salute. Big praise to the hosts Werrin Aboriginal Corporation for organising and creating such wonderful games event. Finally, I must add our two drivers and support workers Jade & Raylee who both shone bright with their love, respect and all-round care.



By A. P

# !!!THANKYOU!!!

The Blue Mountains Aboriginal Elders Olympic Team is very thankful for the sponsorship from Belong Blue Mountains who supported the transport to and from the event, Wentworth Community Housing for their support with the wonderful Cheryl who helped with sponsorship so that we could have team shirts created by Sean at Dreamtime designs and a big thankyou to Bendigo Bank for their sponsorship to cover costs with accommodation and food. Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated.



Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre

Koori Playgroup

**Every Monday Morning During School Term**

Starting at 11am Dora Street, Katoomba NSW 2780  
At Greenwood Education Centre

For more information, Call Raylee on 02 4782 6569



## WAGANA DANCERS

The Wagana Dancers are all home after a month long tour to Canada and Hawaii. Jo Clancy and two of the Company's youth dancers Anastasia Vickers and Jacklyn Chalker started off the tour at the Coastal First Nations Dance Festival in Vancouver. They continued their collaboration with the Raven Spirit Dancers who spent time here in the Mountains and in Adelaide last year with Wagana. After the Coastal Festival Jo stayed on in Vancouver and performed her solo work Yindyang which some of you may have seen in January at Kindlehill. The work is a collaboration between Jo and local filmmaker Jamie Murray and First Nations Canadian filmmaker Gregory Coyes. Jo also taught classes and workshops at the Festivals. Jo left the snow for the sand and met Becky Chatfield, Shana O'Brien, Casey Natty and Stu McMinn in Hawaii for the Honolulu Festival. It's the fourth time Wagana have been invited by the Australian Consulate to represent Australia at this Festival. They performed solidly for a week at Consulate events as well as the Festival and they got to dance on the USS Missouri at Pearl Harbour! In the short time Wagana have been home they still haven't stopped. They danced for Aunty Carol Cooper and Aunty Jacinta Tobin's Wel



Wagana Dancers perform in Hawaii

come To Country at the Blue Mountains Music Festival and did a set before the Stiff Gins performance straight off the plane from Honolulu. They also took part in the vigil for Christchurch at Peace Park in Katoomba last week. You can keep up with all the wonderful things Wagana do on Facebook and Instagram.



Pictured: Jacklyn Chalker in Vancouver



### BLUE MOUNTAINS NAIDOC AWARDS 2019



Naidoc Art Festival 20 & 21 July 2019 (10am—4pm) at Katoomba Leura  
Community Centre (old Katoomba Library).

Opening night Friday 19 July 2019 from 6.30pm—8.30pm

Person of the Year Award—Entries close 5pm Mon 17 June 2019

Youth Award—Entries close 5pm Mon 17 June 2019

For further details and application forms please see enclosed.