

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 1 OF 2022 (FEBRUARY)

# BLACKMAIL

Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre

## Message From Chief Executive Officer

Warami marri yura – hello again everyone,  
We hope you are all staying safe and well!

This issue of the Blackmail newsletter is acknowledging SURVIVAL in more ways than one.

On 26 Jan 2022 the Blue Mountains Aboriginal community came together in partnership with our community of non-Indigenous allies to show our shared commitment to the survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Looking back to our Survival Day gathering ...this was an important day in more ways than one. We acknowledged the survival of many communities of First Peoples in the Blue Mountains and throughout the Country and the survival of ACRC as a long-standing Aboriginal organisation. The day was an opportunity to show our commitment to the life of the Blue Mountains ACRC as an organisation that has survived more than 26 years of good times and adversities...an opportunity to acknowledge the survival beyond challenges of successive disasters including, bush fires, floods and covid. When we think about natural disasters, we are also acknowledging the survival of our shared Ngunnawal (Country). Even throughout hard times we humans find ways to care for our beautiful and diverse Country of sandstone ridges, cooling gorges, waterfalls and streams, eucalypt forests, Aboriginal sacred sites, Indigenous plant biodiversity, precious Indigenous animals and more.

***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 Gerard:

0427 710 708

Many people have contributed to the wellbeing of our beautiful mountains and ACRC as an organisation. Now is the time to let governments know the history of an organisation and the many people who have made this possible. We also need to let people know that ACRC should be recognised for many years of service and achievements. Put simply, ACRC needs a permanent premises to continue. Our community of families, individuals and Elders need a sense of security; in fact, we would all really benefit from having more space to grow our services and to continue to deliver our visions for the future. ACRC has started a petition which many people signed on Survival Day. Now we have an online petition with the Legislative Assembly and we encourage everyone to go to this link in order to sign Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre – Survival <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>

Other news includes moving ahead with the best of intentions for a new year. We have a new Transport Coordinator Gerard Scifo and Traineeship Youth Worker Trish O'Bryan. We have a rearrangement of staff with Paul Glass moving into the role of Family Support Worker. Paul and Trish launched playgroup for 2022 inviting parents to make a wish list of their favourite activities, and Raylee Wall was able to join in because her trip to America was delayed. This was a nice way to start the year because Raylee has done the Playgroup for many years. We are planning a series of events for Elders, starting with a special morning tea on 23 Feb so that our Elders can get together, relax, have a catch up and give us their Wishlist for 2022. We are hoping to do our best to support our community wishes and sincerely hope that covid stops hindering our plans.

In closing, we hope you enjoy this issue of the Blackmail. I know Cathy has been busy putting together some good topics and we are including some photos from the Survival Day gathering. These are just a snapshot of the publication that is being produced by Siobhan Jenner of Bluehouse Graphic design and on this note I would like to thank both Siobhan and Mick Beltran and our strong community leaders (I won't name them here) for their great contributions to the survival of Blue Mountains ACRC... Yanama Budyari Gumada – to walk with good spirit through patience, respect and humility.

## Sunset at Sphinx Rock, 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

### **SURVIVAL DAY EVENT**

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to ACRC's Survival Day event held at Katoomba in January. With the risk of having to cancel this event due to Covid rules changing daily, Covid cases remaining higher than we would have liked and knowing that funding would expire if not used on this date, the planning committee was optimistic, they persevered to put on a great event for everyone who wished to attend. Feedback about the day's events has been positive. To follow is a selection of images from the day, prior to a publication by Bluehouse to come,

### **BIG THANK YOU!**

To Uncle Lex Dadd and Corina Norman for sharing a wonderful acknowledgement, smoking ceremony and workshop skills with everyone. To Jo Clancy and Wagana Aboriginal Dancers for beautiful performances and sharing dance with the community. To Kallico catering for the delicious sweet and savory platters infused with native ingredients. To BlueHouse Graphic design for many hours spent planning the event and marketing materials. To all ACRC staff for assisting with planning and managing the day and to everyone who volunteered their time to make this event possible.

For those who did not feel comfortable attending a gathering at the time, ACRC plans to host similar events in the future, and we look forward to seeing more of the community together.

### **PETITION**

The Board would also like to thank everyone for signing and encouraging others to sign the petition for ACRC to continue operating and survive eviction. We are still gathering signatures and wish to obtain enough to submit our petition to parliament.

The Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre – Survival petition can be signed online at,

**<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>**

Or you can drop into ACRC and sign a paper copy of the petition. We are also distributing paper petitions to shops and organisations, so if you would like a petition or are willing to deliver petitions, please contact Venessa in the office on (02) 4782 6569.



## Message from the Board (cont)

### 2021 AGM

As we have mentioned in previous Blackmail additions, COVID has played a big role in how and when we can safely host the 2021 AGM. In early January, when Covid-19 cases were peaking and many people were unsure about attending gatherings we had to make a decision about the AGM that was planned for February. We have also been waiting for our financial and general reports to be approved by ORIC who are currently experiencing delays in processing documents. It is preferable to have these documents approved before the AGM to ensure accurate and current information can be shared with the community. These two factors have resulted in postponement of the AGM. Although this is unfortunate, we will soon be updating everyone with AGM information including a date for the end of April 2022.

### CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY APPLICATIONS

We informed the community last year that the COA process is under review. This review is still taking place. As soon as we have finalised the COA procedure we will inform everyone and begin with the new process. This review is taking place to ensure we meet administrative requirements and community needs.



# Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre

14 Oak Street Katoomba

## RECRUITMENT

**Are you a friendly person who works well in a team?**

**BMACRC is looking for a Casual Driver**

**This is an Aboriginal Identified role**

**Casual Hours as required**

**Must have: C Class Driver License,  
Police Check, and Working with Children Check.**

Please email [ceo@acrc.org.au](mailto:ceo@acrc.org.au)

Or phone 02 47826569







## 14th Anniversary of the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

On the 13th February, 2022 marked the 14th anniversary of the National Apology. This event marks the anniversary of the Apology in 2008 to Australia's Indigenous peoples in the House of Representatives. The apology was made by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd for past laws, policies and practices that have impacted on Australia's First Nations Peoples, particularly members of the Stolen Generations. The motion was supported by the Opposition and passed through both houses of Parliament. Many members of the Stolen Generations were present in the Chamber to hear the Apology and thousands more filled the Great Hall of Parliament House and flowed out onto the lawns to watch it on big screens.

To recap Kevin Rudd's speech back in 2008 please click the below link  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3TZOGpG6cM>

The speech from 2008 can be found at [Apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples](#).  
Read the Prime Minister's speech at [Statement on the Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations](#).

Minister Wyatt's speech can be found at [Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations](#).  
You can also read the Minister's opinion article at [A long way from the Stolen Generations but still further to go](#).



# Anniversary of the National Apology

## Family Support

On Feb 14 our first playgroup for 2022 was amazing and we received a great Wishlist. We would like to do as much as possible from this list and please feel to let us know if you have any more ideas. Our next Playgroup is on 28 Feb 2022, please see the flyer on page 12.

The list so far include a Family Camp, outings, movies, zoo visits, arts & crafts, cooking & sensory activities, Fairy Falls walk and a cookup, bushwalking excursions, weekend activities, Blacktown water Park, Cultural learnings, clap sticks, local stories on Yidaki etc, Family Fun Days, pools & parks, after school groups, day camps, Tru Ninja visit, positive behaviour courses for children, farm visits, Black Santa guest appearance, cooking on Country, making message sticks Dharug and Gundungurra local art projects. Easter Show and or Hawkesbury show.

I wanted to take the chance to thank the Community for supporting me throughout the past 15 months in the Transport role while I had the training wheels on. Gerard is doing a great job already in the Transport role and will be contactable on 02 4782 6569 for all Transport requests preferably 48 hours in advance. The previous mobile numbers are being phased out and the new phone system will be used to contact each different program through a menu. In his first week Gerard showed me a couple of things he'd worked out with the transport program already – how embarrassing!

I'm looking forward to the role as Family Support Worker because I have worked with children and families in a previous role with the Department of Sport and Rec in Redfern. I'm now undertaking a certificate of Youth and Family Intervention online to fulfil the requirements of the role. Finally, having just completed a challenging 2 day Lifeline course in Domestic and Family Violence for frontline workers, I'm eager to keep learning and growing in this area. I want to carry on the great work Raylee has developed in the Community and beyond!

Paul Glass - Family Support Worker

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**\$250 Parents  
NSW Vouchers  
for family fun**



The NSW Government has launched Parents NSW Vouchers to thank parents, guardians and carers who provided home learning to their school-enrolled children during 2021.

One person from each eligible household can apply for 5 x \$50 vouchers, worth \$250 in total.

These vouchers can be redeemed at Discover NSW and Stay NSW registered businesses.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/.../apply-parents-nsw...>

## Elders Support

I hope this edition of Blackmail finds you all well. Unfortunately, the effects of COVID have continued to make life very challenging and we have all found it disappointing not to be able to come together as regularly. However, given that we have always been a resilient people and have faced many adversities in our lives, we have also shown that we all possess the ability to overcome the challenges we face. At BMACRC we are aiming to get our Elders activities back to some sense of togetherness soon. We are now planning Elders opportunities for 2022. The team and I at the Blue Mountains Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre are planning several get togethers to take place over the next few months. We would like to start with a few morning teas or lunches, so that we can bring you all together for a cuppa and a chat. We will keep you updated and look forward to seeing your smiles again soon. Please see the invitation on page 9 for an Elders Lunch on 23 March 2022.

***Remember, we rise by lifting others. Kindness is free, sprinkle that stuff every where***  
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### **FREE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS FOR CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS**

Get free rapid antigen tests (RATs) if you hold a concession card

This means you can test yourself for COVID-19.

You don't need to contact us to claim your free RATs. You can pick these up from a participating community pharmacy. Find out where to collect your free RAT from a local community pharmacy on the Pharmacy Guild of Australia website. Keep in mind, supply is subject to availability.

To get free RATs, you must hold one of these cards:

- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Health Care Card
- Low Income Health Care Card
- Pensioner Concession Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, White or Orange card.

More information here: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/get-free-rapid-antigen-tests-rats-if-you-hold-concession-card>



# Elders Lunch



Mootang Tarimi Service

## Wellbeing Month

**WHERE:** Katoomba Christian Centre

**MOUNTAIN CAMP DINING ROOM**

119 Cliff Dr, Katoomba NSW 2780

**WHEN:** Wed 23 March 2022

**TIME:** 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

[elders@acrc.org.au](mailto:elders@acrc.org.au) / or by phone

02 4782 6569

**RSVP for CATERING**

**by 18 March 2022**

**DO YOU NEED TRANSPORT?**



# Smoke Between Trees

**You are invited** to step back in time and attend Mount Vic Flicks, the wonderfully revamped 1930's public hall in Mount Victoria, showing flicks and serving home-baked goods. Blue Mountains City Council have been in conversation with the Blue Mountains Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre. We are very happy to announce that the Council will be hosting an additional screening of the film "Smoke Between Trees" in March 2022 (DATE TBC) as part of upholding the Statement of Recognition and Commitment which was endorsed in May 2021. Council wants to work with the Traditional Owners and the broader First Nations Community, to take material steps to address the injustices of the past and to embrace a future together. Council understands that an important part of this process is providing more opportunities for truth telling about First Nations perspectives and history. This locally filmed picture takes serious issues and presents them in a simple and meaningful way while also authentically celebrating First Nations culture. We, the BMACRC have been given 70 free tickets for our Community. If you request a ticket, you must attend or let someone know you cannot attend, so that ticket can be utilised.



"Smoke Between Trees", is a movie by local Film maker Michael Joy, an Australian Director and Cinematographer. "This story is told in three parts, an intimate and sensitive arc of interpersonal relationships as it sketches a broader picture of family, race, cultural resilience and love. It offers a sympathetic and captivating portrait of a devastated man putting himself back together again. This movie is a deeply moving, compassionate and engaging film". This movie showcases our exquisite Blue Mountains Landscape and a kaleidoscope of colorful sunsets/sunrises over our rugged ridgelines.

**A MUST SEE MOVIE!!**

Bookings are essential, and transport is available.

Contact Elly Chatfield on  
(02) 4782 6569,

Tuesday through to Friday,  
to secure your tickets.

**30th March, 2022 -  
Doors open 6.30pm**



## Transport

Dear Community,

My name is Gerard-Laurent Scifo and I am the new Transport Co-ordinator.

Although I was born in Cairns, I am a Yuin man. My family are from La Perouse and the South Coast. I was raised by my mum, Olwyn Salvatori and her sister, Rosalie Graham (nee Salvatori). I grew up living mostly in the Eastern Suburbs and the inner city of Sydney and that's where I feel like I am from. In the late 90s I moved to the Mountains, living mostly in Katoomba.

My Aunty Rosalie was a major role model for me. She was a respected activist in the Sydney Koori community. Over the years she ran Black Books which was a bookshop at Tranby Aboriginal College and worked at other organisations that fought for Indigenous artists. Most notably though, she created the Survival Day Concert, held at La Perouse, in the early 90s as a response to Australia Day being celebrated as a public holiday.

Through her, I got involved with Boomalli Aboriginal Artists' Co-op in the 90s. I worked there as the Assistant Curator to Hetti Perkins and later, Tess Allis. I was also a member on their Board. I haven't really done much art for a while now, but I was a practicing artist in the 90s and 2000s. I did freelance work as an illustrator, mostly doing posters, pamphlets and books. I also exhibited my work regularly. These exhibitions were mostly in Sydney, but there were also shows in other states and overseas.

I've been in the Blue Mountains for a while now and I hope that working at ACRC means I can make a positive contribution to my community.






# 24/7 Mental Health Services

## Beyond Blue

*Anyone feeling anxious or depressed*

 [beyondblue.org.au](https://beyondblue.org.au)

 1300 22 4636

## Kids Helpline

*Counselling for young people aged 5 to 25*

 [kidshelpline.com.au](https://kidshelpline.com.au)

 1800 55 1800

## MensLine Australia

*Men with emotional or relationship concerns*

 [mensline.org.au](https://mensline.org.au)

 1300 78 99 78

## Open Arms

*Veterans and families counselling*


 [openarms.gov.au](https://openarms.gov.au)

 1800 011 046

## Lifeline

*Anyone having a personal crisis*


 [lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)

 13 11 14

## Suicide Call Back Service

*Anyone thinking about suicide*

 [suicidecallbackservice.org.au](https://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

 1300 659 467



### Is it an emergency?

If you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, call **triple zero (000)**