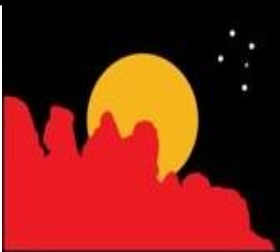




# Blackmail



We Proudly Acknowledge and Pay Our Respects  
to the  
Dharug and Gundungurra People

## ACRC ELDERS LUNCH

**TUESDAY 4th OF FEBRUARY**

**12PM - 2PM**

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

Call Jade on 4782 6569 or 0439 595 181 for catering & transport

## ACRC ELDERS MORNING TEA

**TUESDAY 18th OF FEBRUARY**

**10AM – 12 NOON**

*Come in for a yarn*

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

Call Jade on 4782 6569 or 0439 595 181 for catering & transport.

### **Elders Dates for March 2020:**

**Elders Lunch: Tuesday 10th of March, 2020**

**Morning Tea: Tuesday 24th of March, 2020**

### **ACRC OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Thursday 9am-4pm

Closed for lunch 12.30-1.00pm

Friday 9am-1pm

## Message from the Board

Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. It has been a relief for many to finally see some good rain falling on our beautiful mountain home.

### Sub-Committees

We invite all members of the community to attend a planning session regarding ACRC sub-committees. Creating sub-committees was suggested by some members as a way to further community input in the values and decision processes of the organisation.

We the board agree and believe that sub-committees will create transparency in decision making and will strengthen our service as community members, staff and the board work together.

#### EOI Session

Tuesday 3rd March

10am arrival for 10:30am- 12:30pm session

ACRC Office

Morning tea will be provided

Please contact ACRC by the 21st February if you will be attending or would like more information

### Annual General Meeting

The Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre Annual General Meeting will be held in March 2020 after an extension was granted by ORIC.

Invitations will be sent out 28 days prior to the meeting.

*Always Was, Always Will Be.* recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country. This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists. Australia has the world's oldest oral stories. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures - structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge. Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of

Country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels. *Always Was, Always Will Be.* acknowledges that hundreds of Nations and our cultures covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on earth - to sustainably provide for their future. Through ingenious land management systems like fire stick farming we transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty. NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact

whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula. The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples. Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines - of our lands and our waters. For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time. NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country - a history which dates back thousands of generations.

It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country - which is Australian history. We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.



## Managers' Message

Hello and welcome to 2020, although it has been a terrible start to the year, hopefully 2020 will be a year of change and awareness for not only ourselves but for the people around us and the world in which we live. Before I transgress further I would like to send out a huge thankyou to all the faceless heroes in our very own chairperson Rebecca Chatfield and Treasurer Paul Glass who have worked tirelessly for the last couple of months of last year through till this present day, for all their help and effort in fighting the fires to protect many communities. While also protecting all the wildlife and their homes in the bush that we are surrounded by. I would like to send my condolences to everyone who were affected by the fires and especially to those who have suffered personal loss, including homes. My thoughts and prayers are also with everyone who have been left traumatised from the devastating effects of the fires throughout this holiday period. I would like to acknowledge Mark Greenhill our Mayor and the staff of BMCC for a great job in their effort in helping our Blue Mountains community throughout this very tough and challenging time.

### ACRC News

Unfortunately this will be my last Blackmail message, as with some remorse I regret that I will no longer serve as manager for ACRC. It is with a heavy heart that I have resigned from the reigns of ACRC, however I know that I have achieved quite a lot here and I will leave a positive foot print in our community and here at ACRC. Our premises here at ACRC are in the best condition that they have ever been in for the staff and the community. The current premises is spick and span so all staff can take ownership and pride in their workplace, which will flow on with their attitude and dedication to our community. I have been told that the space now feels more welcoming too for all community, which is another measure of the good work achieved here at ACRC. I feel that ACRC and our community, although we have had a number of major setbacks in the last 18 months, the community has come together like never before and now we have come through the other side. Now that we are on the other side, each and every one of us are still evaluating what we want for ourselves and what we want for our community. For this very reason I have decided it is time for me to move on. At this stage of my life I want to create a greater separation of work and home life which I have found difficult living and working in the same community. The Board and I are currently laying the grounds of implementing sub committees to ensure that community can have greater input into ACRC for the betterment of our community. With the new Board in place and all the things that I have helped establish before my departure, I believe that the future manager and yes, dare I say it "The new BOARD" will achieve great success providing they have the communities support. Many people may carry the belief that ACRC will not be same without me, however as I have reminded them, no it won't be the same, but ACRC is bigger than me it had a lasted many years before me and it will continue to go on without me. I say this as I have hope in the leaders of our new Board, a board who are willing to get their hands dirty and want to be a part of the community and not sit above the community, which I believe is needed if ACRC are ever going to succeed. I say thank you to the individual Board members that had supported me previously and the 'new' Board members who have come on board since September for their ongoing support for me in my role and the support in which they have shown me with my decision to step down. I would like to thank all the staff, all the community members and other services that have supported myself and ACRC since my employment here at ACRC. I have offered my support to the new Board in whichever way I can for the success of ACRC. I must reiterate I am not leaving ACRC and the community all-together, I am just changing my role in the community and with ACRC in the hope of creating a better work life balance. In closing, I wish all the staff, the Board of ACRC and all the community the best of luck in the future. Thankyou, Wayne 4782 6569 email [manager@acrc.org.au](mailto:manager@acrc.org.au)

You're sincerely,

Wayne Cornish

## ACRC PROGRAMS

### ELDERS OUTING - LUNCH AT MINI HA HA FALLS

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 11 am - 1 pm

Let's come together sit in the beautiful bush with easy access, there's seated area for a yarn to talk over planning for the Elders events for 2020. Lunch, tea and coffee and drinks will be provided.

Call Jade on 47826569 or  
0439 595 181 for catering & transport.



## Elders Christmas 2019

*A great turnout for the Elders Christmas Party, it was beautiful to see everyone come together for celebrations. Such strong connected spirit of everyone together.*



# ACYFS 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, with all our community asking and praying to our ancestors asking for rain to put out our fires during our Christmas break and with no rain happening at least everyone came to ACRC Community Christmas Party.

I feel that last year ACRC Community Christmas party was another big success, with ACRC staff socialize with the community and running around like headless chooks, we had our Manager (Wayne) cooking our community Christmas BBQ. THANK YOU Wayne for your support and assistance on the day.

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 Community Christmas Party it would not be the same and I would like to say a big thank you to Olivia and Matt for being Santa's helpers, assisting Santa with handing the presents out to him while Santa was handing out the presents to the children. Again THANK YOU, Uncle Ed you are an amazing person again helping with cooking the BBQ, setting up and packing

away. I would like to also Thank Aboriginal Affairs for donating to our wonderful Christmas party everyone enjoyed the food that they kept coming back for seconds. 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, Faye and Paul for your support on the day

All the children enjoyed their day swimming in the pools and eating the lovely food that was donated by Aboriginal Affairs and it was cooked by Wayne and Uncle Ed. The children were so excited to hear the bell ringing and seeing Santa come around the corner Santa's helper for the day was Olivia and Mat handing Santa the presents. While Santa was calling out the children name the children was waiting for their named to be called out and when one of our children heard their name that stood up and said "That's Me", hold their hand up high so that Santa could see them, it was just moments like that makes you day feel so beautiful. All the children were so excited and couldn't wait to received their gift from Santa

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**



## Youth Services

### Mountains of Help

[bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/mountains-of-help](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/mountains-of-help)

An initiative of Blue Mountains City Council, Mountains of Help is an online directory and source of advice about support services for young people in the Blue Mountains. The website includes information on:

- Counselling
- Mental health
- Sexual health
- Money
- Accommodation
- Legal advice
- Education, finding work and much more. Hard copies can be obtained by contacting the Community Development Officer - Young People at Council on **4782 5680**.

### Blue Mountains Youth Council

The Youth Council helps young people communicate with Council and the community on matters that affect them. They also facilitate community activities and events for young people. If you're 12-19 years old and interested in getting involved or want more information, go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/youth-council](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/youth-council). For information on other youth services and activities, you can also contact Council's Community Development Officer - Young People by email at [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) or phone **4780 5680**.

### Blue Mountains Women's Health and Resource Centre 4782 5133 [bmwhrc.org](http://bmwhrc.org) Young Women's Artspace

Opportunities to draw, paint and create. **Young Women's Clinic Drop in**, no appointment required to see a women's health doctor, nurse and/or counsellor for women 25 years and under. 124 Lurline Street, Katoomba. Thursdays 3.30pm-5.30pm during school terms.

### Mountains Youth Services Team (MYST)

**1300 006 978** [myst.com.au](http://myst.com.au)

31 Waratah St, Katoomba

59 Springwood Avenue, Springwood

Operates youth centres in Katoomba and Springwood, adolescent and family counselling, in-school and early school leaver personal support programs and outdoor

recreation programs. MYST services include:

### Katoomba Youth Centre 1300 006 978

31 Waratah St, Katoomba Wednesdays-Thursdays 3.00pm-6.00pm, Fridays 3.00pm-8.00pm. Extra programs during school holidays. Free drop-in after school activities, internet and referral to other services.

### Springwood Youth Centre 1300 006 978

Springwood Ave Springwood. Drop in Wednesdays-Fridays 2.30pm-5.30pm

### Upper Mountains Adolescent & Family Counselling Service 1300 006 978

31 Waratah Street, Katoomba Counselling services for young people about parent-child communication difficulties, family crises and change, including separation, leaving home, death and blended families. Covers

Woodford to Mount Victoria.

### Platform Youth Services - The Glue Factory 4782 4436 or 4751 1611 [platformmys.org.au](http://platformmys.org.au)

By appointment Mon to Fri. Supports young people aged 12 to 24 with a range of issues including accommodation, health and income support, access to education/training/ employment, alcohol and other drugs support, mental health support, recreational resources, life skills, legal, general welfare support.

### Parenting Young 4758 6811 [mocs.org.au](http://mocs.org.au)

Mountains Outreach Community Services (MOCS). Under Lawson library, corner San Jose Avenue and Loftus Street, Lawson. Fridays 10.00am-12.30pm; school terms. For parents 24 years and under.

### Youth Mental Illness and Substance Abuse

**(YMISA) 4780 5545** A network of government and non government organisations working together to improve mental health outcomes, programs and referral pathways for young people living in the Blue Mtns.

### Pink Mountains Youth

[pinkmountains.com.au/pink-mountains-youth](http://pinkmountains.com.au/pink-mountains-youth) Provides a relaxed, safe space for young LGBTQISSA+ people to be themselves, establish new friendships and peer support networks, and dissolve any sense of isolation that they may feel. Meetings at Katoomba and Springwood Youth Centre on 3rd Tuesday each month at 7pm-9pm (alternating venues). **Headspace 4720 8800** [headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

606 High Street, Penrith Headspace Penrith provides face-to-face information, support and services to young people aged 12 to 25 years. They help with mental health, general health, alcohol, other drug services & work support.



**Official Launch Seniors Festival 2020**  
**"Love Your Life"**

**Stories & Community**  
**Special Guest Speakers**  
**Kodie Bedford & Arron Beach**  
**Belvoir St Theatre**  
**MC John Hockney**

Kodie Bedford, Belvoir's 2018 Balnaves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellow, alongside Deputy Executive Director and Senior Producer Aaron Beach, will be speaking about connecting with community in the development of a new play, as well the process of bringing Kodie's new work *Cursed!* to the mainstage as part of Belvoir's 2020 season. *Cursed!* is Kodie's first play following a highly successful career in writing for television. Drawing on her experience as a Jaru/Gija woman from Geraldton, Kodie has written a semi-autobiographical madcap comedy about class, mental illness and blended families.

**Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**10.30 – 1.30 Carrington Hotel Katoomba**  
**Bookings Essential**  
**Belong Blue Mountains Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre**  
**on 4782 1117**



**THANKYOU** to Gateway Family Services for their support with their Christmas Hampers this past year. Your amazing work builds for more sustainable supported communities.



**THANKYOU** to 'It's In The Bag' for their support with the bags this past Christmas. Their work ensuring everyone is afforded the dignity so many of us take for granted.

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



## Seniors Week 2020 Recognition Awards

Call for Nominations

**Do you know a local senior resident that deserves recognition for their contribution to the community?**

**Would you like to acknowledge an organisation that provides services to older people?**

Residents can nominate an Individual (60yrs or older. 50yrs or older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents) or an Organisation who has demonstrated a commitment to, and leadership in, the areas of community service or volunteering.

*Residents who are previous award recipients cannot be re-nominated.*

**Nominations close Monday 10 February, 2020.**

Nomination forms are available from Council's Springwood and Katoomba offices, branch libraries or from Council's website **bmcc.nsw.gov.au**.

For further information contact: Prue Hardgrove on 4780 5546 or [phardgrove@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phardgrove@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

*Let's celebrate!*

