

Community Newsletter



BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 2022



Top left and right: We invited the community to become citizen scientists and join the Pollinator Count during November 2021, and we're currently working on a baseline survey of wild pollinators at the old Katoomba Golf Course site. Bottom left: Participants who completed the Permaculture Teacher Training course in December - as part of the world's first Planetary Health Pluriversity and Social Enterprise Incubator. Bottom right: Council has installed solar panels at five sites and reduced our carbon footprint by 25 per cent.

Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative grows

In 2021, Blue Mountains City Council joined the Global Planetary Health Alliance which is publishing research on how human health is being affected by the deteriorating health of the natural systems on which we all depend. As a result, Council is looking to restore planetary health by thinking globally and acting locally to improve natural systems in the Blue Mountains.

Our new Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative is also building on our long-term commitment to restoring social, environmental and economic health across the City - and, in turn, **generating new jobs for the future.**

It's occurring alongside Council's core business - of **waste, road and infrastructure works** - and significant achievements were realised during the last Council term, despite the organisation having to respond to multiple crises including bushfire and floods (*see page 3 for more*).

Last year we became the first Council in Australia to resolve to **integrate the Rights of Nature into our operations** and we are now working with our First Nations Communities to develop the *Muulii Naadyu - Sweet Water Cultural Connections Program*. We recognise that we have much to learn from traditional cultures that have long known this.

As a bushfire-prone City, we're focusing on the critical importance of water for our ongoing health. We're exploring ways to become a 'sponge' city that stores water in our

vegetation, in our soil, in our swamps, and underground, to future-proof us against increased temperatures, drought and fire; and to increase the capacity for all life to thrive.

We're also **collaborating with leading universities and citizen scientists**, to focus research on understanding the needs of our communities, and our natural systems.

In December we launched the **world's first Planetary Health Pluriversity and Social Enterprise Incubator** in which we trained Permaculture teachers who'll go on to teach the rest of the community in 2022!

On 1 January, 2022, we also launched the **#AYearInADay campaign - to highlight actions everyone can take to restore planetary health.** If 364 of you join us each day to share a new action you're taking, **WE CAN ACHIEVE THE ACTION OF A WHOLE YEAR IN ONE DAY!**

Stay up to date on all our Planetary Health actions, as part of the city-wide Planetary Health Action Program, in 2022 at bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health.

The former Katoomba Golf Course site continues to be investigated as a possible location for the new Planetary Health Initiative. Community consultation will continue in the coming months. Stay up to date at yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/katoomba-masterplan.

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Council launches emergency resource for residents

Being prepared and knowing what to do in the event of a natural disaster such as a bushfire, extreme storm or a flood, is one of the best ways that you can protect yourself and your family.

To support local residents, Council launched the Emergency Dashboard in December, a new online resource which provides up to the minute, emergency information that is tailored to the Blue Mountains region.

By linking to lead agency websites such as NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service, Fire+Rescue NSW, Live Traffic and

the Bureau of Meteorology – among many other resources – the Emergency Dashboard allows Blue Mountains residents to access information about severe weather warnings, road closures, power outages and emergency contacts all in the one location.

The Emergency Dashboard has been modelled on other similar emergency resources that are currently being utilised by Councils around the country.

To view the Emergency Dashboard go to: emergency.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/



Council continues to follow the advice of NSW Health in relation to COVID-19. Stay up to date on any changes to Council services or facilities at bmcc.nsw.gov.au/COVID19-updates.

Community lands – Plans of Management

With the introduction of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, Council was appointed Crown Land Manager for many Crown reserves.

The Act requires Council to manage the Crown Reserves as public lands in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. The Council was required to:

- Classify the land as operational or community land (now complete)
- Assign categories to the community land (now complete)

- Develop and adopt Plans of Management (PoMs) for the Crown Reserves classified as community land (in progress).

The PoMs are not proposing changes to the Crown Reserves. They are intended to formalise existing use arrangements.

You can have your say on draft Plans of Management for Blackheath Soldiers Memorial park, Knapsack Reserve, Lapstone Oval and Pulpit Rock until 2 February, 2022.

Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/crown-lands for more information.

Report an issue online

Reporting matters to Council is easy!

You can report issues relating to potholes, drainage, footpaths, sportsgrounds, trees, dumped rubbish, council halls, dog attacks, pollution, bushfire hazards and much more - using our new and improved eServices.

Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/report-an-issue

Subscribe to our fortnightly eNewsletter

Our fortnightly community eNewsletter provides a snapshot of all the latest news from Council.

Stay up to date on Council services, projects and initiatives, with information delivered straight to your inbox. Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/snapshot to subscribe.

Waste workshops

Want to know how you can reduce the amount of food waste that ends up in landfill taking up valuable space, generating carbon emissions and causing other environmental impacts that are expensive to manage?

Then check out our Food Waste, Composting and Worm Farm waste workshops.

Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-workshops-events for a full list of workshop dates and further information on how you can join in!

Our online workshops start from Thursday, 10 February.





The newly elected Councillors of Blue Mountains City Council took an Oath (or Affirmation) of Office on 23 December 2021, following the 2021 Local Government Election. Councillor Mark Greenhill was elected Mayor for a third term. Cr Romola Hollywood was elected Deputy Mayor, and Crs Brendan Christie and Sarah Redshaw were elected Alternate Deputy Mayor. Five new Councillors join the Council – Claire West, Susie van Opdorp, Nyree Fisher, Roza Sage and Sarah Redshaw. Councillors Brent Hoare, Mick Fell, Daniel Myles and Kevin Schreiber have also returned to serve another term.

Council's End of Term Report highlights achievements

The outgoing Council delivered its *End of Term Report 2016-2021* on 30 November 2021, highlighting achievements over the last five years and the delivery of improved core services to the community.

The report provides an update on progress of the City towards achieving its social, environmental, economic and civic objectives in line with the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill, said: "It's important that we recognise the achievements of the last Council term. These achievements were realised despite many unforeseen challenges. Throughout investigations, bushfires, flood and the pandemic, the Council has continued to deliver core services. We have had the largest ever expenditure on capital works in the City. We have also been recognised both nationally and internationally, especially for progress towards our ambitious sustainability goals."

Highlights of the [End of Term Report 2016-2021](#) include:

- Realising an improved financial position and **reducing debt by more than \$20 million.**
- Declaring a **climate emergency** and reducing Council's carbon footprint by 25% over four years.
- Adopting a **Statement of Recognition and Commitment**, acknowledging the strong partnership between Council and Gundungurra and Dharug Traditional Owners.
- Supporting our community through the **Black Summer bushfires of 2019- 2020** and the subsequent recovery, and responding to **extreme flood events in February 2020 and March 2021** that caused multiple landslips.
- Completing **significant upgrades to sporting facilities, district parks, emergency management capabilities and visitor facilities** across the City, including:
 - The new **Echo Point** – Gathering Place.
 - **New Rural Fire Service stations** at Shipley, Lawson and Blaxland and state-of-the-art technology installed in the **Blue Mountains Emergency Operations Centre.**
 - **New clubhouse** at Pitt Park (*pictured*), Wentworth Falls and **upgrades to parking areas** at Knapsack Oval, Lapstone Oval and Warrimoo Oval.
 - **New Visitor Information Centre** at Glenbrook.
- Upgrades and reopening of the **Katoomba Falls Reserve night-lit walk.**
- Rolling out **\$18.7 million of new projects** through the Western Parkland City Liveability Program, including upgrading **district parks** in Wentworth Falls, Springwood, Blackheath and Glenbrook (*pictured*); redevelopment of **Springwood Library** and upgrades to the **Katoomba outdoor pools.**

In regards to the **essential services** that Council provides to our community every day, since 2016 Council has:

- **Redirected over \$1 million to urgent flood-impacted road reseal work** (*pictured*) and, overall, **resealed 50km of roads** (7.5% of the sealed road network).
- **Introduced a new waste service** that has delivered significant reductions in the amount of waste going to landfill.
- **Improved accessibility, traffic flow & safety for pedestrians in a number of our town centres**, including the upgrade of footpaths in Katoomba (*pictured*) and Wentworth Falls.
- **Upgraded 80 bus stops** to improve safety and accessibility.
- Answered, on average, more than **80,000 calls and served more than 50,000 customers each year.**



Councillors

Ward 1

Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts

Cr Suzie Van OpDorp

0434 306 143

svanopdorp@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Sarah Redshaw (Deputy Mayor)

0414 195 980

sredshaw@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Kevin Schreiber

0431 501 981

kschreiber@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Ward 2

Wentworth Falls to Falconbridge/Springwood

Cr Romola Hollywood (Deputy Mayor)

0414 195 983

rhollywood@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Claire West

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cwest@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Brent Hoare

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Ward 3

Falconbridge/ Springwood to Valley Heights

Cr Daniel Myles

0414 418 161

dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Roza Sage

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resage@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Mick Fell

0414 195 991

mfell@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Ward 4

Warrimoo to Lapstone

Cr Mark Greenhill (Mayor)

0414 195 990

mgreenhill@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Brendan Christie (Deputy Mayor)

0423 565 988

bchristie@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Nyree Fisher

0414 195 989

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WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



Blue Mountains Library Storytime and Babytime!

The Library Children's Team is very happy to be back presenting programs from **Wednesday 2 February 2022**. This means we can once again tell stories and all the other usual fun of our Children's programming.

For times and venues please visit library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



ALL Library Branches are OPEN!

We have returned to pre-2021-lockdown servicing and are thrilled to be offering services in **all six Library branches and during usual weekend hours**. Please note, during the Springwood Library upgrade our service is offered from the Library in the Loft, upstairs at Springwood Hub.

For opening hours visit library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



BLUE MOUNTAINS THEATRE

Everyone's favourite mum, Maggie, and her long-suffering son Arthur return in a delightful new stage adaptation of the comedy classic **Mother & Son**. Starring the Blue Mountains' own Julie McGregor and Christopher Truswell. **3pm, Sunday 27 March 2022**.

Words and Music: John Bell & Simon Tedeschi brings together two icons of Australia's theatre and concert stages in a sneak peek into life 'behind the curtain'. John and Simon take the audience into their confidence and share some wicked backstage stories, alongside some of their favourite pieces of poetry and music. **2.30pm, Sunday 20 March 2022**.

All details & tickets available at: bluemountainstheatre.com.au

Join the email list to keep up to date with new show announcements, special events, offers and more – sign up online.



The Blue Mountains Portraits exhibition is the Cultural Centre's annual celebration of the local community and its diverse members. The exhibiting artists portray the unique people that make up the cultural fabric of the Blue Mountains and tell the stories behind the person.

From 22 January – 20 March 2022.

Installation view Blue Mountains Portraits 2021.
Photo: silversalt.



Tohby Riddle: Silent Light presents small, simply stated paintings depicting commonplace scenes that often pass unnoticed. The subjects are largely derived from the artist's long-term observations, day and night, of locations in Katoomba on foot and from a car. The works examine how light can silently illuminate such moments, to reveal more than the mundane. **15 January – 27 February 2022**

Image: **TOHBY RIDDLE** Afternoon light Waratah Street 2018, acrylic on board, 30 x 40 cm, courtesy the artist

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