

# Community Newsletter



BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL    OCTOBER 2021



## Go Green: Extra green bin collections this November

**Blue Mountains City Council is providing two extra green bin collections per household in November as a gesture of goodwill to the community following a difficult year.**

The two extra green bin services, being provided at no extra cost, are in addition to the usual once-a-fortnight green bin collection. So from Monday 1 November to Friday 26 November, Council will collect the green bin every week throughout the Blue Mountains.

The red garbage bin will be collected weekly and the yellow recycling bin fortnightly, as normal.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill said: *"It's been a challenging year for Blue Mountains residents, following further COVID-19 lockdowns and a community still in recovery from the 2019-2020 bushfires and major flooding in 2020. These extra green bin services will be provided as our residents get back into their gardens after winter and start looking ahead to summer."*

*"While we recommend residents prepare for the bushfire season all year round, we hope that these extra collections will remind people to use the green bin service in preparing their properties for this summer bushfire season."*

Council CEO Dr Rosemary Dillon said: *"Using your green bin*

*for garden vegetation keeps it out of landfill, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and extends landfill life.*

*"There are many other benefits for the environment created by composting and using the green bins, including improving regional soil health by returning nutrients to the earth. We also hope that by providing these two extra services in November, we will encourage residents to keep using their green bins all year round."*

**For more information go to**

[bmcc.nsw.gov.au/our-household-waste-service](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/our-household-waste-service).

## New organic waste hub

Our new organic waste hub is a one stop shop to find out how you can keep organic waste out of landfill, and all the ways Council can help.

Organic waste accounts for roughly 33% of landfill. That means one third of landfill doesn't need to be there. That's important because the more waste we put in to landfill, the more it costs you and the more it contributes to climate change.

Learn more at: [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/organicwaste](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/organicwaste)

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# Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative

As one of only two cities in the world located within a UNESCO declared World Heritage Area, Council recognises its responsibility in managing the Blue Mountains sustainably.

The Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative (PHI) has emerged with a strong vision to grow Planetary Health for the whole City and for future generations. This is an opportunity to provide significant benefits for the City in the short, medium and long term.

Council has been on a sustainability journey for more than 20 years. This includes:

- **Embedding Sustainability** at the heart of our Community Vision for the City of the Blue Mountains. Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community-strategic-plan-2035](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community-strategic-plan-2035)
- **Committing to being carbon neutral by 2025.** Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/action-on-climate-change](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/action-on-climate-change)

- **Recognising Traditional Owners.** Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/statement-of-recognition-and-commitment](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/statement-of-recognition-and-commitment)
- **Protecting and restoring biodiversity.** Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/protecting-and-restoring-biodiversity](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/protecting-and-restoring-biodiversity)
- **Protecting our waterways.** Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waterways](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waterways)
- **Supporting sustainable planning and development.** Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/local-strategic-planning-statement](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/local-strategic-planning-statement)
- **Integrating Rights of Nature** into our operations and planning. Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/rights-of-nature](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/rights-of-nature)
- **Becoming an internationally accredited ECO Destination.** Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/ecotourism](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/ecotourism).

You can read more about our journey to grow Planetary Health at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health).

## Pollinator Count

**In November we're celebrating the diversity of wild pollinators in the Blue Mountains!**

Council's Planetary Health Initiative is inviting everyone to become citizen scientists during Australian Pollinator Week from November 14-21.

There are over 2000 native bee species in Australia, as well as honey bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and other pollinating insects.

As insects are declining globally, it's important to document who is here so we can see how their populations are changing. We'll be doing a baseline survey at the old Katoomba Golf Course and inviting you to help us by surveying our City during the Wild Pollinator Count.

Go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/pollinator-count](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/pollinator-count) for more information and follow [#wildpollinatorcount](https://twitter.com/wildpollinatorcount) on social media.



**The former Katoomba Golf Course site is currently being investigated as a possible location for the new Planetary Health Initiative.**

Council received the Blue Mountains community's initial thoughts on the site, as part of the first stage of the Katoomba Masterplan, that took place between November 2020 and February 2021.

**The next stage will get underway soon!**

Stay up to date at [yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/katoomba-masterplan](https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/katoomba-masterplan).

## Blue Mountains Planetary Health Advisory Committee

With a philosophy of "think globally, act locally", Council has established the Blue Mountains Planetary Health Advisory Committee.

The Committee, selected after an Expression of Interest process, will help advise and guide the Council on the establishment and implementation of the Planetary Health Initiative including a local action program that builds on Council's sustainability journey of more than 20 years.

"We were delighted with the outstanding calibre and expertise of the Advisory Committee members," Mayor Mark Greenhill said. "I'm certain members, with their impressive skills and backgrounds, will contribute great things to our Planetary Health Initiative."

Get more at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health-committee](https://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health-committee).

# Free Leisure Centre entry to thank our health workers!

**Council is showing its gratitude for our local health workers by providing free Leisure Centre entry during the month of December.**

*"We want to show gratitude for the health workers in our LGA – the nurses, doctors and hospital staff – who have helped us through the COVID-19 pandemic, ahead of their own personal safety," Mayor Councillor Mark Greenhill said.*

*"As a gesture of thanks on behalf of the whole community, Council is offering each of them free entry to all our Blue Mountains Leisure Centres during the month of December.*

*"In addition, as a reminder of how much they're valued, we're running colouring-in competitions where the children in our community can get involved and show their thanks too. This way, our healthcare workers can feel the love when they visit our facilities and see the images and expressions of support all around them."*

Council operates centres throughout the Blue Mountains at Blackheath, Katoomba, Lawson, Springwood and Glenbrook.

**For further information:** [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/LeisureCentres](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/LeisureCentres)



Blue Mountains Leisure Centre's Sales and Wellbeing officer Jessica Girard is pictured at Katoomba Leisure Centre, thanking local health workers for caring for the Blue Mountains community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Carers Week 2021

**National Carers Week was held 10 to 16 October and was dedicated to recognising and celebrating the outstanding contributions that unpaid carers make to our nation.**

Council, in partnership with local Blue Mountains community organisations and businesses, developed a program of 30 individual events along with some 200 carer pamper bags for the annual event.

In the Blue Mountains alone there are 8718 carers (13% of population) providing unpaid assistance to a person with disability, long-term illness or old age.

*We thank them for all that they do!*

## Community Resilience and Wellbeing Survey

**Council and the Stronger Families Alliance are again asking Blue Mountains residents how they feel about their life and the community they live in.**

The second annual *Community Resilience and Wellbeing Survey* is timely, given the challenges of the past two years including bushfires, flooding and the global pandemic.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill, said: *"Never has our community experienced multiple crises in such a prolonged period of time. Research like this helps Council and community organisations to build action plans, and secure funding, to deliver what our community needs.*

*"We want a healthy and resilient community, and will do all we can to help ensure that."*

The results will contribute to a baseline of local information that will better prepare us for the future and also help identify where pockets of vulnerability are across the ages and locations.

**The Resilience and Wellbeing Survey is available online until the end of November at [yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/resilience-and-wellbeing](http://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/resilience-and-wellbeing).**

# Councillors

## Ward 1

### Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts

**Cr Don McGregor**

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dmcgregor@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

**Cr Kerry Brown**

0414 195 980

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**Cr Kevin Schreiber**

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## Ward 2

### Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood

**Cr Chris Van der Kley (Deputy Mayor)**

0427 805 810

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**Cr Romola Hollywood**

0414 195 983

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**Cr Brent Hoare**

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## Ward 3

### Faulconbridge/Springwood to Valley Heights

**Cr Daniel Myles**

0414 418 161

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**Cr Shae Foenander**

0414 195 986

sfoenander@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

**Cr Mick Fell**

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## Ward 4

### Warrimoo to Lapstone

**Cr Mark Greenhill (Mayor)**

0414 195 990

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**Cr Brendan Christie**

0423 565 988

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**Cr Darryl Bowling**

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# WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS

## Get Ready for Summer Expo

30 October

As we enter the summer storm and bush fire seasons, it's the perfect time to get informed and get prepared.

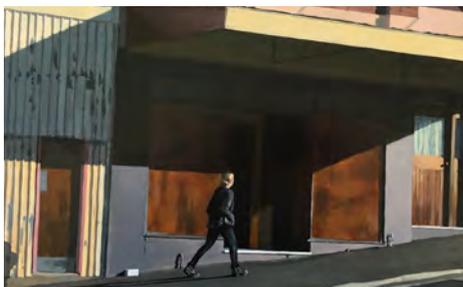
Come along to our online *Get Ready for Summer Expo* on Saturday 30 October to find out how to stay informed and where to find information, and what we can do to look after our community, the wildlife and beautiful environment in which we all live.

Find out more at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/Get-Ready-BlueMountains](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/Get-Ready-BlueMountains)



## Waste Workshops

Join one of our FREE workshops in November on Food Waste, Composting or Worm Farming. View the full program, including times and dates, and get links to register, at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-workshops-events](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-workshops-events)



## Tohby Riddle: Silent Light

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.

15 January – 27 February 2022. Go to [bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au](http://bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au)



## Workshops for Businesses

To support our local businesses to get back on their feet after lockdown, we're running a program of FREE workshops for local businesses in November. Some of the courses are old favourites, and some are specifically designed to help businesses get back trading with a fresh energy and focus. For more information go to [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/training-opportunities-for-small-business](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/training-opportunities-for-small-business)



## Effie: Better Out Than In

Australia's beloved Logie Award winning legend Effie returns to Blue Mountains Theatre in February to bring us the laughs we sorely need with her hilarious new show 'Better Out Than In'. **Friday 25 February, 8pm.** Go to [bluemountainstheatre.com.au](http://bluemountainstheatre.com.au)



## Become an educator

Blue Mountains Family Day Care is now registering new educators. If you have a Certificate 3 or higher in Early Childhood Education and Care, consider the possibility of starting your very own Family Day Care business. Visit [www.bmfcd.com.au](http://www.bmfcd.com.au) or phone 4780 5280 to find out more!

### Blue Mountains City Council

Locked Bag 1005  
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### Telephone

West from Woodford 4780 5000  
East from Linden 4723 5000



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