

# Community Newsletter



BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL APRIL 2022



## A note to say 'thank you'!

**Throughout the last two years of extraordinary and trying times, our community has been lifted by the many who choose to help.**

One of the best ways we can find hope in these times, is to look at those helpers. And we are blessed in the Blue Mountains to have so many. As the flood waters recede, and the clean-up gets underway, we want to shine a light on the helpers, in all their forms.

It's not just the people you'd expect or often hear about. Our community is full of people and businesses who have cared for the most vulnerable among us. These people are the helpers and the hope givers. They have shown what it is to love local in every way.

Thank you for being there for all of us! Your generosity, kindness and compassion is inspiring and makes us proud to be your Council.

**Have you been helped by someone? Or been touched by an act of kindness over the last two years?**

**You can say thanks and share your story with the community by using the hashtags #ThankYou #HopeGiver #BlueMountains to share your story with the community on social media.**



## Nominate someone for a Blue Mountains Citizen of the Year Award

**Nominations for the local Blue Mountains Citizen of the Year Awards are now open and Council is hopeful that nominations will flow in, to acknowledge those who have served our community in an extraordinary year.**

The Awards recognise and reward citizens who make the Blue Mountains community the unique and spirited one it is.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill, said: "2021 was a challenging year for everyone; floods and pandemic tested the resilience of us all. They continue to test us.

"But these challenges have also brought out the best qualities in our residents; bravery, compassion, kindness and strength. These Awards are your opportunity to thank someone who supported our community through these tough times."

We are encouraging Blue Mountains residents to nominate in one, or all of the five categories:

- Young Citizen of the Year (24 years and under)
- Citizen of the Year (25 – 64 years)
- Senior Citizen of the Year (65 years +)

- Environmental Citizen of the Year
- Community Achievement of the Year.

Past recipients of our Awards have been recognised for achievements across a broad range of activities, including education, emergency services, community development, safety, cultural events, welfare, sports, and business.

"There are generous, dedicated and innovative people here in the Blue Mountains making a difference each and every day. We are asking the community to spare ten minutes to fill in a nomination form so we can give those exceptional people the recognition they deserve."

**The closing date for nominations is Sunday, 1 May 2022. For more information and to nominate go to: [yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/citizenawards](https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/citizenawards).**

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# Celebrating 30 years of Bushcare in the Blue Mountains

**This year marks the 30th anniversary of Bushcare at Blue Mountains City Council.**

Bushcare is a volunteer program that restores and cares for bushland reserves throughout the Blue Mountains. There are currently more than 60 active Bushcare groups working in our local communities.

Blue Mountains Mayor Mark Greenhill said: "The Bushcare volunteers' consistent and hard work makes a huge difference to the health of our environment, and helps protect the World Heritage Area we live in.

"I've had the pleasure of meeting many Bushcare volunteers over the years, and they are the most passionate and dedicated people.

"The leadership and support provided by the Council Bushcare Officers has also been integral to the program's continued success and growth over the last 30 years, and is to be commended and celebrated along with our amazing volunteers."

Over the year, we'll be sharing stories from Bushcare groups – current and old, and celebrating the amazing volunteers who make the program vibrant and effective. Bushcare volunteers don't seek accolades or attention, they prefer to go about their work quietly, tirelessly, and show their love through their work.

However, marking such an important milestone is the perfect opportunity to share their stories and publicly thank them for their work and commitment.

The Bushcare team will also be launching Bushcare at Home, a new series of simple ways everyone can protect and restore their local environment.

**Find out more about Bushcare:**  
[bmcc.nsw.gov.au/bushcare](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/bushcare)



## Blue Mountains Place Brand - Consultation underway

Council has partnered with Blue Mountains Tourism for the Blue Mountains Visitor Economy Revitalisation Project and to create a unifying brand for the Blue Mountains.

The *Place Brand* will represent elements of the Blue Mountains that are important to locals, and which will help attract the type of residents, visitors and businesses that share these same values.

In this way, we seek to preserve the unique natural environment of the Blue Mountains; ensure a diverse, sustainable and resilient economy; and a thriving community.

Consultation has so far been conducted with Traditional Owners, businesses and community representatives. Council Staff and tourism industry representatives are also contributing to the process.

The project is being funded under Stream 2 of the *Local Bushfire Economic Recovery Fund*.

This includes the creation and implementation of destination branding, marketing, a website, major events, industry communications and a business resilience program.

## Planetary Health actions on World Health Day

**Council and the community marked World Health Day on 7 April 2022 by responding to the urgency of our global health crisis by creating the action of more than a WHOLE year in ONE day.**

With the multiple impacts of a global pandemic and recent natural disasters such as the floods in NSW affecting all of us, this year's theme 'Our Planet, Our Health' emphasised how much the health of the planet and the health of individuals are intrinsically linked.

To help support and celebrate World Health Day, Council's #AYearInADay campaign inspired more than 365 people – including Council employees and community members – to take at least one action that's new for them to help restore planetary health.

From 1 January this year, Council's Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative launched the #AYearInADay campaign to help grow local action for planetary health.

With the mantra of 'think global and act local' the campaign has now to date seen community members take more than 800 new actions to support planetary health.

**For more information and to get involved in the year long campaign go to: [ayearinaday.org](http://ayearinaday.org). To stay up to date on the Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative go to: [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/planetary-health)**



## Impact of Storms on City

The Natural Disaster in February/March 2022, declared after recording-breaking rainfall in the Blue Mountains, has significantly impacted Council Services.

Storm damage now sits at hundreds of millions, which includes the cost to repair landslides, roads, facilities and buildings, stormwater drainage and natural visitor infrastructure.

Thirty per cent of our road network has been seriously damaged. Given flood events over three years, pot holes continue to be a challenge across the Blue Mountains and Council continues with an escalated road-fixing program.

We are asking the community to continue to be patient as this is a difficult time for our City, as it is throughout the State.

The organisation continues to triage natural disaster priorities and advocate to both levels of government, in order to access grant funding for recovery works. Council is also looking at other options for income streams for the City.



## Council establishes Revenue Taskforce to look at income options

Council has established a revenue taskforce to focus on new ways of generating income to support the City, given the ongoing impact of climate change and natural disasters.

The taskforce – jointly chaired by Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill and CEO, Dr Rosemary Dillon – is determining options for new revenue sources that do not place any extra burden on ratepayers.

“The Council has made significant improvement to its financial position over the last 10 years, but faces significant financial challenges going forward, particularly relating to the impact of natural disasters,” Mayor, Cr Greenhill said.

“Council currently has the largest ever expenditure on capital works in the City and in 2021 Council redirected more than \$1.5 million to an escalated road-fixing problem, to address extensive damage caused by previous flooding. That escalated program of works continues.

“But due to climate change and more natural disasters, Council expects to continue to have increasing issues with infrastructure into the future. We therefore need to find more revenue that doesn’t come from our ratepayers.

“We are dealing with damage to infrastructure and environment from storms and fires, we are experiencing a loss of income due to the impacts of the pandemic, we are seeing global challenges including price inflation and supply disruption and currently, visitors do not pay to use visitor infrastructure.”

CEO, Dr Rosemary Dillon, said: “Council is already implementing a program of continuous improvement in its business operations and has withstood multiple shocks in recent years. This new taskforce is focused on identifying ways of generating

increased revenue to support the expenditure of the City, particularly in the context of increased natural disasters.

“We cannot replace damaged infrastructure to the standard it was previously,” Dr Dillon said. “This will not be enough to withstand the future impacts of climate change. We have to ‘build back better’ to ensure the City is *Fit for the Future*.

“I am pleased to say that with the support of Councillors, we are already looking at various options for this and will come to the community later this year, to receive feedback on these options.” The taskforce, that includes Councillors and Council senior staff, will report to the Council within six months of its commencement.

A new report has revealed the impact of fire, flood and the global pandemic on the local tourism industry.

The last two years have been particularly difficult, with multiple natural disasters and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. There has been a \$118 million loss in direct revenue and it is estimated 600 jobs have been lost in the industry.

[Read the full report](#)



# Councillors

## Ward 1

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

#### Cr Suzie Van OpDorp

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#### Cr Sarah Redshaw (Deputy Mayor)

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#### Cr Kevin Schreiber

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## Ward 2

### Wentworth Falls to Falconbridge/Springwood

#### Cr Romola Hollywood (Deputy Mayor)

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#### Cr Claire West

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#### Cr Brent Hoare

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## Ward 3

### Falconbridge/ Springwood to Valley Heights

#### Cr Daniel Myles

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#### Cr Roza Sage

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#### Cr Mick Fell

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## Ward 4

### Warrimoo to Lapstone

#### Cr Mark Greenhill (Mayor)

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#### Cr Brendan Christie (Deputy Mayor)

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#### Cr Nyree Fisher

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# WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



### SPARK! SCIENCE KITS

Wonder how things work? Delve into the world of science and nature with hands-on science to take home from your Library! Aimed at children between 3 and 12, each kit contains scientific objects, books and worksheets that allow families to investigate scientific ideas and the world around them.

<https://bit.ly/SparkScience>



### WOLLEMI ARTISAN MARKET

This Mother's Day weekend bring your Mum to the Cultural Centre, pick up something delightful from one of our artisan stallholders and treat her to a special day out at the Gallery. Browse our talented stallholders showcasing a range of unique wearables, accessories, items for the home and more. Free event.

Go to

[bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au](http://bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au)



Caribé returns with their trademark high energy Cuban music and dance. Their new production *Una Nueva Vida (A new life)* celebrates the experiences of Caribé's Latin American artists, their stories as seen through their eyes and those of family members.

*Una Nueva Vida* is a spectacular collision of beautiful memories, creativity and multiculturalism set against a repertoire of original Latin Jazz.

Go to [bluemountainstheatre.com.au](http://bluemountainstheatre.com.au)



### COMICS PLUS!

Digital comics and graphic novels have arrived at Blue Mountains Library with age appropriate collections for adults, teens and children. Unlimited simultaneous use of titles means instant access and no waiting. Find Comics Plus on your device using the Library Pass app or through a web browser.

<https://bit.ly/ComicsPlusBMLib>

### CHICAGO AT BLUE MOUNTAINS THEATRE IN 2022

Set in Chicago in the jazz age, this 1975 American musical is based on a play by a 1920's reporter and is a satirical look at the corruption and the administration of criminal justice from the era. With shifting times and views there was a swathe of female criminals who were acquitted for crimes and thanks to newspaper coverage, received celebrity status from it.

Loaded with sarcasm and humour, Chicago pokes fun at the manipulation of the legal system and the press as well as the ridiculous side of celebrity and the blurred lines between fame and infamy. Season passes are also available for both Chicago, which will save you 10% on ticket prices.

Go to [bluemountainstheatre.com.au](http://bluemountainstheatre.com.au)



### Blue Mountains City Council

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