



Community Newsletter

October 2017

Blue Mountains City Council

Mayors Message



One year in to this Council's term of office, I am pleased to report the Council's positive performance and significant achievements in delivering the final year

of its four year Delivery Program 2013-2017. In summary, this Council has essentially done all the things that it set out to do.

Our **overall performance** in 2016-2017 rated highly, including meeting 100% of our major projects targets; completion of 97% of our operational plan actions and 94% of our Asset works program as planned.

The Council finished the 2016-2017 year in a **strong financial position** noting a surplus Operating Performance Result of \$5.6 million; a healthy investment balance; and debt reduction ahead of target.

The Council adopted the new suite of updated 10, 4 and 1 year **Integrated Plans** in June 2017 to set the direction of its service delivery and budget, ensuring value for money services responsive to the changing needs of our community.

Other **highlights** include improved transport and accessibility, including road sealing; revitalising the Southern Scenic Escarpment and visitor infrastructure; improved resource recovery resulting in a significant reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill; thriving cultural facilities; extension of the Great Blue Mountains Trail; the upgrade of Lawson Community Hall; Master planning for Springwood, Blaxland and Blackheath town centres to improve liveability; and adoption of Carbon Abatement Action and Investment Plans to reduce carbon emissions by 20% over five years.

We continued our **award-winning** work, with Council receiving numerous accolades during the year.

The Council continues to **advocate** for the best outcomes for Blue Mountains residents and our World Heritage environment.

The achievements of the Council and the City are **thanks to the collective efforts** of the community, Councillors, staff and other agencies who have worked with us to improve the wellbeing of our community and the environment.

In the year ahead, as Mayor, I will continue to lead the Council's focus on the key issues that are important to residents and the broader community. I look forward to working with you in 2017-2018 so that we can continue to build a successful future for the City of Blue Mountains.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill OAM

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Have Your Say

Blue Mountains Have Your Say provides a convenient online forum for the community to find out about Council projects and proposals and provide feedback and ideas to contribute to Council's decision making.

Go to bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au





Pools with more than 30cm of water need to be fenced

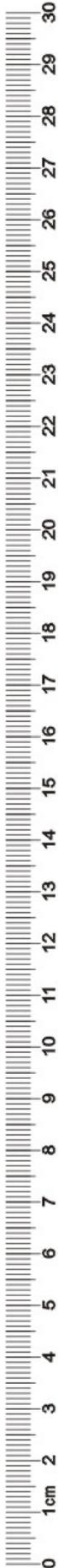
This includes portable or inflatable pools.

Backyard swimming and spa pools are popular for relaxation and recreation, but they bring a number of health and safety risks.

Swimming pool owners need to ensure that appropriate fencing, gates, locks and signs are maintained in the pool area and that relevant requirements under the Swimming Pools Act 1992 are met.

The most effective safety measure is for children to be properly supervised by a parent or another responsible adult, always.

For more information www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/sustainableliving/environmentalhealth/wimmingpools.



*Ruler image is not to scale.

Special Rate Variation

Program update



A regular column providing an update on Council's special rate variation 10 year program 2015 - 2025.

Council commenced implementation of a special variation to rates in July 2015, following approval from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This special variation provides greater capacity to fund required infrastructure renewal and maintenance and stop the decline in the City's \$1.2 billion worth of built assets; continue environmental programs previously funded by the Environment Levy; improve services to the community; enhance emergency preparedness and response; and improve overall financial sustainability.

In recent months, a focus on master planning for Springwood, Blaxland and Blackheath town centres to guide future development and improve liveability for residents and visitors. The Blackheath Village Centre masterplan was adopted by the Council in September which sets the scene for urban design and public domain of the village centre in years to come.

A portion of the special rate variation continues to fund our ongoing environment and culture program, enabling Council to manage and protect these natural assets, ensuring our status as a responsible City within a World Heritage Area.

Looking ahead, funding from the special rate variation will contribute to significant upgrades of two District parks in the City. As part of the Glenbrook Park upgrade, a new junior playground will be installed, commencing late October 2017 (weather permitting) and scheduled for completion in mid-January 2018.

The playground upgrade will include new, inclusive equipment, shade, seating, and landscaping. In recognition of the playground being the site of the original's Cox's Road, the design will have an old transport theme featuring elements of train wheels, cart wheels, and a horse sculpture.

Planning and design work continues in earnest in preparation for the upgrade of the Wentworth Falls Lake District Park. This project will include the construction of an accessible walking track, new toilets, additional car and bus parking, viewing platform and the installation of interpretive/ educational signage.

Local Citizen of the Year Awards

The Blue Mountains Local Citizen of the Year Awards recognises those citizens who have a consistent record of excellence, who have made outstanding achievements in their field and have contributed in a significant way to the Blue Mountains community.

Nominations are sought from Blue Mountains residents from all fields of endeavour including community service, humanitarian, business, science and technology, arts and entertainment, sport, education and environment.

Nominations close Friday 1 December 2017. For more information, to view the selection and eligibility criteria or to nominate go to bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards or call Mikaela Sherlock **4780 5760** or email msherlock@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.





Prepare - Act - Survive

Bush fire survival plan

Getting ready for a bush fire is easier than you think. By taking just 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you'll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home. If you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire.

DISCUSS what to do if a bush fire threatens your home. Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed.

PREPARE your home and get it ready for bush fire season. There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

KNOW the bush fire alert levels. If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

KEEP information in a handy location. Such as all the bush fire information numbers, websites and the having the smartphone app on your phone. In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

You can download the My Fire Plan and Fires Near Me NSW apps on iOS and Android or for more information contact the Blue Mountains Fire Control Centre on **4784 7444** or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.



Wentworth Falls Lake stormwater improvements

Council has partnered with Water NSW and the Environmental NSW Trust on the Swamped by Threats project to fund the installation of bio-filtration systems for stormwater going into Wentworth Falls Lake and Jamison Creek.

The bio-filtration systems are designed to remove bacteria and nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which significantly improves water quality. The systems include settling ponds for catching silt, multi layered filtration basins with native plants and sandstone rock armouring to prevent erosion. The sandstone for these systems has been taken from works at the Blaxland Resource Recovery and Waste Management Facility during the construction of the new landfill cell.

Decreasing nutrient loads in stormwater helps reduce the spread of weeds, which can push out local native plants and reduce swamp biodiversity. Blue Mountains Swamps are an endangered ecological community and home to several threatened species including the Giant Dragonfly and Blue Mountains Water Skink. Swamps play a vital part in the local water cycle, releasing water slowly over time and keeping creeks flowing even during periods of prolonged drought.

For more information www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waterways.



Celebrating Children's Week

'Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their cultures and other cultures.' – *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 2017 Children's Week focus.

Celebrating Children's Week (October 21-29) provides a reminder to all of us of the importance of childhood and the role adults have in nurturing our children and providing them with every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Council supports the learning and development of children, youth and family friendly communities through the provision of services, play spaces and venues. This includes working with a network of government, non-profit and voluntary organisations as part of the Blue Mountains Stronger Families Alliance, to bring friendship, fun and professional support to Blue Mountains families.

Further information about services and activities for families can be found online <https://goo.gl/5ctRBA>.



Councillors

WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS

Ward 1

Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts

Cr Don McGregor
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dmcgregor@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Cr Kerry Brown
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Cr Kevin Schreiber
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Ward 2

Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood

Cr Chris Van der Kley
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Cr Romola Hollywood
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Cr Brent Hoare
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Ward 3

Faulconbridge/ Springwood to Valley Heights

Cr Daniel Myles
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Cr Shae Foenander
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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
0423 565 988
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Cr Darryl Bowling
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Summer Pool Season

Council's outdoor pools are now open, with Blackheath opening Saturday 4 November. There are Learn to Swim, Aqua Aerobics and a range of great facilities and activities at all our pool centres. Details, opening hours and programs at bmleisurecentres.com.au



25 November get advice on how to **keep your young driver safe** with a 2 hour workshop to get practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers. **2 December** get your **child restraints checked**, adjusted and fitted correctly by experienced RMS authorised Child Restraint Fitters for FREE. **Bookings essential 4780 5000.**



17 November

Bring a cushion, a picnic and prepare to be dazzled as we relax under the stars in the beautiful setting of the Cultural Centre courtyard for Poetry Under the Stars. FREE family event – in the event of wet weather please contact Katoomba Library. library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



14 November

Author Talk with Judy Nunn, one of Australia's best known authors at Springwood Library. Discussing her latest novel, Sanctuary, a stunning portrait of love, hope and survival on an isolated island off Western Australia.

library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



18 November

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre & Katoomba Library 5th Birthday - celebrate the day with fun free games and activities for kids, as well as an exhibition of Australian Children's illustrators' work provided by Westwords & The Sydney Writers' Festival. library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



Blue Mountains Theatre: For your diary

Laugh out loud with comedian Lawrence Mooney **17 Nov**. Enjoy sounds of the Everly Bro's & Buddy Holly on **24 & 25 Nov**. Experience the classical Russian National Ballet Theatre on **9 & 10 Dec** as they perform *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo & Juliet*. bluemountainstheatreandhub.com.au

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