

# Community Newsletter



October 2018

Blue Mountains City Council

## Mayors Message



I am pleased to report the **positive performance and significant achievements** in implementing the first year of our four year Delivery Program 2017-2021.

In 2017/18 we completed 97% of the Fit for the Future actions; 90% of our Operational Plan actions; 81% of our Asset Works Program; and met 67% of our milestones for Major Projects. Despite the need to use some of our reserves to fund asbestos management related costs, Council finished the year in a sound financial position noting a healthy investment balance of over \$21million.

We continued to **deliver an extensive range of services to almost 79,000 residents and over 3 million tourist**, across 27 towns and villages - from parks, roads, libraries, cultural activities, waste and resource recovery, pools, halls, environmental restoration, sports grounds, local jobs, land use and development, companion animals and visitor infrastructure, to supporting community development, emergency services and economic development. We manage, renew

and maintain over \$1.1 billion worth of built assets.

Also, **we secured a commitment of \$15 million in funding** through the Western Sydney City Deal. Funding will enhance the liveability of the Blue Mountains through a range of projects.

The Council is performing well, acknowledging the challenges it faced during the year, and those that lie ahead as the Council responds to the NSW Government Public Inquiry. I believe the Council has demonstrated a responsive and proactive approach to these challenges and strong leadership on a range of complex matters.

I also note the ongoing progress being made by the Council to improve its governance and its systems **to ensure safety is at the centre of the Council's operations and culture**. We have met all of the requirements of the Minister's Performance Improvement Order and we remain focused on strengthening our asbestos and safety management. Managing asbestos remains an ongoing challenge for all councils in NSW and indeed all levels of government.

Spring has been a busy time as we **continue to work to improve the City and**

**community connection** – the pool season has started with Katoomba's 50m outdoor pool, and the leisure and toddlers' pools at Blackheath, remaining; the new toilet facility at Wentworth Falls Lake is now open; we have joined the Cities Power Partnership to complement our Carbon Abatement Action Plan; we are supporting a permaculture social enterprise project for young people; and hosted a successful community environment event 'Swampfest' to promote our beautiful Blue Mountains waterways and how to care for our catchments, to mention just a few things.

I look forward to continuing to work together with the elected Council, the General Manager, and the community in the best interests of the City as we maintain our focus on building **a sustainable and successful future for the Blue Mountains**.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill OAM

### Inside this issue

- 2 Update on City projects
- 2 'Wake up With' Blue Mountains
- 2 City of the Arts Grants Program 2018
- 3 Bush fire survival plan
- 3 Resilience and wellbeing survey
- 3 Halls for hire
- 3 Fauna Project
- 4 What's On

## Have Your Say

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

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



Community Resilience and Wellbeing Survey



Blue Mountains Fauna Project



# Update on City projects



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

## 'Wake up With' the Blue Mountains

A new tourism campaign is encouraging people from Greater Sydney to visit the Blue Mountains/ Hawkesbury/ Penrith region and stay overnight.

The 'Wake Up With' campaign showcases the four experience themes of adventure, nature, food and culture. It was developed by Destination NSW, in partnership with the 3 councils of the Regional Strategic Alliance.

The campaign will run for 8 weeks and features activities like kayaking, mountains biking, tree top adventures, camping, food picking and cultural experiences.

Regional Strategic Alliance (RSA) Chair, Blue Mountains Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill, said the campaign shows how the three Councils can work well together in an innovative way to the benefit of our community.

"The RSA was formed in 2016 to harness the collective strength, energy and commitment of the region to help build the future of our cities," he said.

As residents, we are lucky to 'Wake Up With' the Blue Mountains every day.

Go to [visitnsw.com/wake-up-with](http://visitnsw.com/wake-up-with) for more.

Cover pic: South Lawson Waterfall Circuit  
Below: Katoomba Street Art Walk  
Credit: Destination NSW



The **new public toilet at Wentworth Falls Lake is now open.** The facility provides unisex, ambulant and accessible toilets and is large enough to cater for visiting school, tourist and community groups. Design features include a brickwork pattern inspired by the markings on the body of the Blue Mountains Water Skink. The Giant Dragonfly is also represented in a motif on the gate design, which is based on original artwork by Darug man Chris Tobin. The building is part of a broader project to upgrade the Wentworth Falls Lake district park, which includes a new boardwalk and viewing platform, interpretive signage, car park and landscaping works.

Council is progressively completing the priority actions in its **Disability Inclusion Action Plan.** Recent accomplishments include:

- Installation of an adult change facility underway at the Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, Springwood. Due for completion at the end of November 2018.
- Completion of an audit of Councils accessible toilets across the City. The study identified 10 toilet facilities for improvement or replacement.
- Creation of a trainee position within Council as an identified position for a person living with a disability.
- Training for Council's library, customer service and planning staff on Access Awareness by the Guide Dogs NSW /ACT.

**Blue Mountains Library is developing its online and digital library collection.**

This will enhance connectivity to library resources, increase the library's online presence out of library hours and promote equity of access to library services to the wider community. New services include eBooks, eAudio books, HSC study lab, and the Storybox Library - [library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au).

## Blue Mountains City of the Arts Grant Program 2018

The City of the Arts Grants Program is supporting seven diverse arts projects for delivery over the next twelve months.

- *Leonard the Lyrebird* – family friendly classical music performances by Grace Kim.
- *Blume Illustration Project Mentorship Program* – provided by Faye Wilson for young adult illustration artists.
- *Sensa Flora* – an exhibition by Saskia Everingham featuring local women textile artists, cultural events and workshops.
- *Yindyang* – a First Nations Australian and Canadian dance and film installation with a local singer/ songwriter and dancers by Jo Clancy.
- *Eating Pomegranates* – a physical theatre and social dance performance with local talent by Margaret Davis .
- *Lanterns on the Lake* – a lakeside evening theatrical event by Camille Walsh.
- *City of the Arts Generation of New Writers* – a program to inspire young local writers.





# Bush fire survival plan

The Bush Fire Danger Period began in September (one month earlier than usual) for more than a third of NSW.

During August this year there has been more than 2000 bush and grass fires across the State, and unfortunately three homes destroyed.

While emergency services do everything they can to prepare and protect our communities, it is important for residents to do what they can to prepare for the fire season and make sure they make, or update, their Bush Fire Survival Plan.

One of the biggest threats to homes are embers from fires which can be blown a great distance ahead of a bush fire and potentially start spot fires. It is essential that you are not complacent and make sure your family has a survival plan in place and have prepared your property by doing things like clearing gutters of leaves, maintaining gardens, and checking your garden hoses can reach all corners of your property.

For further information on being Bush Fire Ready and to get a copy of the Bush Fire Survival Plan template visit [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au), [myfireplan.com.au](http://myfireplan.com.au) or download the **My Fire Plan** app to your smart phone.



## Rare Regent Honeyeater recorded through Fauna Project

A Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater (*pictured above*) was spotted and photographed by Springwood local, 13 year old McKinley Moens.

The Honeyeater has a very patchy distribution in NSW and this important sighting was recorded as part of the Blue Mountains Fauna Project.

The Blue Mountains Fauna Project is a joint partnership between the Blue Mountains Bushcare Network and Blue Mountains City Council with grant funding from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

What makes this project so special, is bringing together existing data specifically on Blue Mountains fauna so Council can plan for better management of wildlife in our local bushland reserves.

Council is inviting all residents to let us know about their fauna observations in their backyard and local area. We want to know about animal sightings big and small, past and present.

If you would like to record a sighting or find out more information on the project go to [bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/faunaproject](http://bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/faunaproject).

For more information on Blue Mountains Bushcare and events happening near you go to [bushcarebluemountains.org.au/events](http://bushcarebluemountains.org.au/events).

## Community Resilience and Wellbeing Survey



Council and the Stronger Families Alliance are conducting a Resilience and Wellbeing survey in the Blue Mountains to measure how healthy and resilient our community is.

Let your community and your Council know what is important to you. Help build knowledge that will shape future action, funding, infrastructure and policy.

For more information contact Council's Social Researcher on **4780 5726** or email [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au). To take part in the survey go to [bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/resilience-and-wellbeing](http://bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/resilience-and-wellbeing).

## Find your match with one of our Community Halls

Did you know Council has 14 public halls available for use by residents and the broader community.

There are large halls and smaller meeting rooms available to meet your requirements.

Community halls are used for a wide variety of activities including fitness classes, craft groups, children's play groups and activities, adult education classes, performing arts, birthday parties, wedding receptions, community group meetings, fundraising events.

For more information visit [bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/halls-for-hire](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au/community/halls-for-hire) or contact Council's Community Facilities Officer on **4780 5000** or email [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au).



# Councillors

## Ward 1

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

#### Cr Don McGregor

0434 306 143

dmcgregor@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Kerry Brown

0414 195 980

kbrown@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Kevin Schreiber

0431 501 981

kschreiber@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

## Ward 2

### Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood

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

0427 805 810

cvanderkley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Romola Hollywood

0414 195 983

rhollywood@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Brent Hoare

0431 501 984

bhoare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

## Ward 3

### Faulconbridge/ Springwood to Valley Heights

#### Cr Daniel Myles

0414 418 161

dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Shae Foender

0414 195 986

sfoender@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

0423 565 988

bchristie@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

#### Cr Darryl Bowling

0414 195 989

# WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



## Sunday 4 November 2018

Celebrate **Grandparents & Elders Day** with activities and a picnic at Wentworth Falls Lake, 11am – 3pm. Also join the competition for kids to submit a story, poem, artwork or video on how much they love their grandparents. Contact: [phardgrove@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phardgrove@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) or **4780 5546**.



## Saturday 1 December 2018

A **FREE Child Restraint Checking Day** will be held at the Hazelwood Childcare centre carpark, 10 Rosedale Ave, Hazelbrook, from 9am to 1pm. Note: Restraints must be less than 10 years old. Bookings essential 4780 5000. More information [childcarseats.com.au](http://childcarseats.com.au).



## Saturday 10 November 2018

Teaching someone to drive can be a pleasant experience. You can learn all the simple steps on **how to teach a learner driver** at a **FREE** two hour workshop at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, 2-4pm. Bookings essential 4780 5000 or [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au).



Image: MEREDITH BRICE War and flowers 2014, textile installation: cotton, polyester, silk, and plastic, 200 x 45 cm. Photo: Effy Alexakis, Photowrite

## Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

Saturday 3 November, 11am - 1pm. *Contemporary Gallipoli* includes a diverse array of new art works by Turkish & Australian artists, a curator talk exploring the journey of remembrance beyond myth & memory, and create your own Commemorative Poppy [bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au](http://bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au).



## Local Citizen of the Year Awards Nominations

Nominations are sought from residents from all fields of endeavour, who have made outstanding achievements in their field and contributed in a significant way to the Blue Mountains community. More information and to nominate [bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards](http://bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/citizenawards)



## Blue Mountains Theatre

**View the best short films** by local Primary School kids, *Film by the Eucalypt* - 7 Nov. Catch *A Very Kransky Christmas* - 23 Nov. Listen to *Lior: Between You and Me* - 30 Nov and have a very Merry Christmas with the NSW Police Band for *Morning Melodies* - 12 Dec. [bluemountainstheatre.com.au](http://bluemountainstheatre.com.au).

Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked Bag 1005  
Katoomba NSW 2780

### Telephone

West from Woodford **4780 5000**  
East from Linden **4723 5000**



[council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

[facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil](https://facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil)  
 [twitter.com/BlumtsCtyCncl](https://twitter.com/BlumtsCtyCncl)  
 [instagram.com/bluemountainscitycouncil](https://instagram.com/bluemountainscitycouncil)  
 [youtube.com/BlueMtnsCityCouncil](https://youtube.com/BlueMtnsCityCouncil)