

Community Newsletter



July 2018

Blue Mountains City Council

Council and Community Achievements 2017/18

The Council, working with the community, has achieved a great deal in the last 12 months to deliver best value services through improving the wellbeing of our community and the environment.

A snapshot of our achievements is provided within this newsletter showing just some of the many ways that we are making the Blue Mountains a better place

to live, work and visit.

We look forward to achieving even more in the year ahead. This year's Operational Plan 2018/19 supports expenditure of over \$138 million on a wide range of services, facilities and infrastructure and the management of \$1.28 billion worth of built assets and 10,000 hectares of natural bushland.

The focus of Council remains to provide best value for money services, implementing an integrated safety management system and making further progress on Council's six strategies for financial sustainability. Together, we continue to **build a successful and sustainable future for the Blue Mountains.**

Minister's announcement: Public Inquiry

The Minister for Local Government, Gabrielle Upton MP, announced on Wednesday 27 June, that a public inquiry would be conducted into Blue Mountains City Council, investigating allegations made in November 2017 relating to asbestos management and organisational governance.

It is important for the community to know that much has happened since that time in response to those allegations with safety being the highest priority for the Council's governing body and for the Council as an organisation. It remains our highest priority.

We remain committed to the safety of our workers and the community. We are

implementing Improvement Plans to strengthen compliance with workplace health and safety for Council staff and for the Blue Mountains community. The Council has met all of the requirements of the Performance Improvement Order, issued by the Minister in January 2018. We have continued to demonstrate our absolute commitment to working with the NSW Government and regulators, and will continue to do so. We are also working on strengthening organisational development over the next 12 months.

The Council will participate in the inquiry in a full and open manner and will extend its full cooperation to the Commissioner and. Elected councillors will remain in place... **continued page 3.**

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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



Active Transport Review



Blue Mountains Fauna Project

Councillors

Ward 1 | Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts
Ward 2 | Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood
Ward 3 | Faulconbridge/Springwood to Valley Heights
Ward 4 | Warrimoo to Lapstone



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WARD 4

Receive and pay your rates online

You can receive, read and pay your rates by email and BPAY View. Aside from getting instant access to your rates notice it is also environmentally friendly, quick, easy and convenient.

To receive your rates notice by **email** complete the form online at <https://registrations.pml.com.au/bluemountains>.

BPAY View is another way for you to receive and view bills through the secure NetBank environment. Once registered for BPAY View, you are able to view, pay and track payments, making the management of your bills easier.

Other ways to pay your Rates include:

- Direct Debit (Council's preferred payment method)
- Council Website
- In person at Council by EFTPOS (preferred), cash or cheque.
- In person with POST billpay at any Australia Post branch

Subscribe to your quarterly community newsletter

If you pay your Council rates in full once a year (and not by quarterly instalment), you will miss out on the following three editions of the Community Newsletter. If you wish to receive a newsletter each quarter please notify Council:

- Your name and postal OR email address
- Your preference to receive the newsletter by post OR email (*email encouraged*)
- If you wish to remain on this list indefinitely - **if you have already elected to remain on the list, you do not have to contact Council.**

You can let Council know in the following ways:

- **Phone:** 4780 5760
- **Email:** msherlock@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
- **Post:** Locked Bag 1005 Katoomba NSW 2780 or
- **Advise** the customer service staff at Council's Katoomba or Springwood offices.

You can view and download earlier editions online www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/publications/community-newsletters.

Community Survey Results

Blue Mountains City Council received a positive report card from its 2018 Community Survey which indicates a high level of community satisfaction with the performance of Council.

The survey assesses the perceptions, expectations and priorities of a representative cross-section of local residents relating to Council services and facilities, and more broadly, the Blue Mountains as a place to live.

Independent social research consultancy, Micromex Research, conducted the survey in March this year. The results of the 2018 Community Survey are very positive and indicate a level of community satisfaction, overall, with Council's performance.

87% of residents are satisfied* with the performance of Council and 82% of residents indicated they are satisfied* with the level of information provided, community consultation and advocacy undertaken. (*rated as 'somewhat satisfied', 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' on satisfaction rating scale).

The Council is committed to continuously improving its service delivery to meet the needs of the community. Blue Mountains City Council has been conducting community surveys on a regular basis since 1996.

The full report is available at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/documents/2018-community-satisfaction-survey-report-0.



Minister's announcement: Public Inquiry

Continued from page 1

...during the public inquiry.

We are yet to be informed of any details relating to the Public Inquiry, such as how the Inquiry is to proceed and the expected commencement date, however we will keep the community informed.

The community can be assured that Council will continue to maintain its focus on delivering services to the community and to customer service during the course of the wPublic Inquiry.

The management of asbestos and related risks is a challenge for all levels of government in NSW. It is a challenge that has been recognised by the Council and local government sector as a whole.

Adopt a dog poo bag dispenser

Council is working with the community to install dog waste dispenser bags in dog off leash areas, sportsgrounds and parks, one of the key actions and recommendations of the Dogs in Public Spaces Strategic Plan (DIPS).

So far, 9 of the 14 designated dog off leash areas have at least two dispensers installed as part of Council's 'adopt a dog waste bag dispenser' program. The dog waste dispensers have been funded by the NSW EPA to improve local waste and recycling initiatives.

Each of the dog off leash areas or parks have a local resident who 'adopts' the dispensers. The resident is typically a regular user of that park. The role of that resident is to ensure the dispensers are stocked with bags and to report any damage or issues with the dispensers to Council.

The dispensers help to improve dog owner education - each of the dispensers has information related to cleaning up dog waste - and to improve playing surfaces for sports fields.

The success of this program is due to the community partnering with Council to deliver dog waste bags in off leash areas, sportsgrounds and local parks. Council is looking for more residents and sports clubs to adopt a dog waste bag dispenser so that more dispensers can be rolled out to parks, sportsgrounds and dog off leash areas across the City.

If you would like to see a dispenser installed in your local park, and you are interested in 'adopting a dispenser' please contact Council's Parks and Recreation Team for more information on 4780 5000 or email council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.



Community News
Snapshot



Sign up to our Community Newsletter Snapshot

Our new fortnightly eNewsletter provides a snapshot of all the latest news from Council. It is quick and easy to subscribe here www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/publications/community-news-snapshot. We'd love you to forward the eNewsletter to family and friends so they can subscribe and we can build our audience.

You can also keep up to date with the latest Council news and opportunities for community involvement in Council projects and decision making by visiting the media centre on our new website www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/media-centre and our community engagement website www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au.

Council Achievements

Snapshot of achievements for 2017 - 2018



Upgrading recreation facilities

We completed a \$460,000 makeover of Knapsack Park offering an improved playing surface on the popular sportsground. Over 400 players from the Blue Mountains Football Club attended a 'Welcome Back to Knapsack' event in May to celebrate the upgrade, which included renewing the irrigation system and returfing the fields.



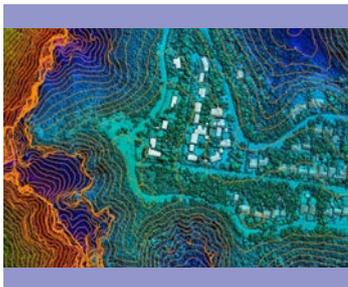
Improving local roads

We resealed about 20km of local roads as part of the Road Reseal Program. This included approximately 94,000 square metres of asphalt and 61,000 square metres of spray seal. We also sealed about 4km of unsealed roads. These projects improve access and enhance liveability in the Blue Mountains.



Promoting the Blue Mountains

We showcased the Blue Mountains at Pitt Street Mall, during the Sydney Film Festival and Vivid. The 15-second Blue Mountains tourism advertisement, was shown 100 times over a 12 day period. Vivid attracts almost 2.5 million people annually.



Updating spatial data to assist in planning

We completed a significant mapping project which updated our elevation, imagery and building footprint data to reflect the current state of the built and natural environment. The spatial information is to be used for flood modelling, environmental management, asset management, city-wide land use planning, bushfire risk analysis and development assessments.



Celebrating successful facilities

We celebrated the 5th anniversary of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre & Katoomba Library in November 2017. The Cultural Centre showcases innovative, diverse, distinctive and creative cultural programs for 116,000 visitors annually. Our state-of-the art library welcomes over 530 customers a day and issues over 15,300 loans a month.





IMAGE: Ian Brown

Conserving Cultural Heritage

We continue conservation works for high priority cultural heritage assets owned/managed by Council including graffiti removal from the historic Lennox Bridge in Glenbrook, and in partnership with the community, we have completed the restoration of the Map of Australia water feature in Wilson Park, Lawson, and developed a Conservation Management Plan for a remnant section of the old Cox’s Road in Linden.



Planning for the Scenic Eastern Escarpment

We adopted a long term plan for the Scenic Eastern Escarpment that will guide the future development of nature-based and culture-based recreation and tourism opportunities in the lower Blue Mountains. The Master Plan will assist in obtaining significant NSW and Australian Government investment in recreation infrastructure for the community.



Continuing a commemorative tradition

We welcomed the former Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard, at the Prime Ministers’ Corridor of Oaks in Faulconbridge for her official tree planting in July 2017. The oak trees have been planted by each Prime Minister, or their closest living relative, since 1934 and form a living memorial to Federation and the Prime Ministers.



Improving visitor infrastructure & funding equity

We adopted the Visitor Infrastructure Investment Strategic Plan to improve equity in the funding of visitor infrastructure for the City. The plan explores a range of funding options for investment in visitor infrastructure, visitor services and city presentation and proposes priority actions.



Supporting local musicians and businesses

We held two successful micro music festivals in April and June 2018. About 180 performers, including large ensembles, entertained at Katoomba Live and Local in April. The event was made possible by a Create NSW grant. The Katoomba Solstice Celebration, in June, saw around 50 local musicians entertaining the community in a variety of venues and street ‘stages’.



Improving our communication

We launched our new corporate website in March. The website is responsive to suit different devices. It is also accessible, user friendly and leading practice in regards to how it presents content.



Update on City Projects

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

Renewal of the Lawson Swim Centre is underway with the installation of a new plant room and filtration system for the existing leisure (children's pools) and minor improvements to the surrounds of the leisure pools coming soon. The 50m pool plant equipment will receive an upgrade and there has also been an upgrade to the lighting. The project will be completed prior to the Summer season opening on the 29th September.



Knapsack Park in Glenbrook received a \$460,000 make-over of and now offers an improved playing surface on the popular sports ground in time for the busy winter sports season. The successful project was completed in partnership with the Asian Cup Legacy Funding and the Australian Government's Community Development Grants Program. New floodlights have also been installed at Katoomba Showground to improve night time sports training and games.

Conservation works continue for high priority Council owned or managed **cultural heritage assets** including removal of graffiti from the historic Lennox Bridge in Glenbrook.



A total of 44,000m² of road has been resealed in Leura, Wentworth Falls, Hazelbrook and Springwood during 2017/18 as part of Council's **Road Reseal Program**.

Construction of the new amenities building at **Wentworth Falls Lake** is nearing completion and is expected to be open in August. Work has also begun on the installation of interpretive signage within the park that will share the natural and cultural history of Wentworth Falls Lake with residents and visitors.

Work continues progressively to **renew play equipment in local parks across the City**. The much loved pipe-based play equipment in Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park and Hinkler Park Katoomba will remain for the enjoyment of children for years to come. To meet changing standards for play equipment and address identified risks removal of the items seemed like the only option. Instead, we negotiated with a playground specialist and an appropriately qualified metal worker to modify these items on-site in the near future so the historical play equipment can be kept. Also, following community feedback, the popular Glenbrook Park Junior Playground will be amended so that the park will be fully fenced with two gated entrances. Work is expected to commence immediately after the school holidays.

REPORT RID LLEGAL DUMPING

Council tackles illegal dumping

Illegal dumping of waste is a significant issue for all communities and councils - socially, financially and environmentally.

Council is strengthening its effort to combat illegal dumping in the Blue Mountains in a number of ways:

- Council has endorsed the Draft Western Sydney Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy that is expected to increase recycling and combat illegal dumping across the Western Sydney region.
- We have recently joined the EPAs Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad in Western Sydney.
- Encouraging the reporting of suspected asbestos containing material on public land and in community facilities (not private property). They can be re[ported

online at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/residents/eservices (click on Report)

phone 4780 5000 or

email council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

- Reducing the fee for disposing of asbestos and hazardous materials. The fees for the disposal of asbestos waste have been reduced to the same amount per tonne as for mixed waste.

For fees and charges www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/asbestos/asbestos-management.





Bushcare Celebration

Masters, Legends and Rising Stars



On behalf of the community, Council has hosted the Annual Bushcare Picnic to celebrate the hardworking bushcare volunteers, to thank them for their amazing work and enthusiasm in helping to keep our bushland healthy.

Bushcare awards are presented to five individuals each year for their contributions made to Blue Mountains Bushcare. Many of the recipients are involved across a number of Bushcare groups. The individual awards went to: LEGEND – Roger Walker, HARD YAKKA – Malcolm McPherson, LANDCARE – Jessica Yullie, MASTERS – Bea Pavlicek and JUNIOR – Daniel Oakey.

A number of groups also received recognition for their service in the Bushcare program.

5 YEARS: Upper Katoomba Creek Bushcare Group

10 YEARS: Woodford Glen Landcare Group and Marmion Swamp Bushcare Group

15 YEARS: Wilson Glen Bushcare Group and Brahma Kumaris Landcare Group

20 YEARS: Three Gullies Landcare Group, WWF Lake Bushcare Group, Leura Cascades Bushcare Group, Cox Reserve Bushcare Group, Sutton Park Bushcare Group, Vale Street Bushcare Group, Redgum Park Bushcare Group

25 YEARS: Else - Mitchell Park and Gordon Falls Reserve Bushcare Groups

Interested in joining Bushcare? With over 60 groups throughout the Blue Mountains, an extra pair of hands is always welcome to help keep our bushland weed free. You don't need any experience, we always have a Bushcare Officer on site and you can come as often or as little as you like.

To register visit www.bushcarebluemountains.org.au/join-bushcare.

Pet Registration Fees

The NSW Companion Animals Act is the law that sets out the rules for dog and cat owners in New South Wales. Under the Act, dog and cat owners are required to register their pet by providing its microchip number, a description of the animal, their address and phone numbers. This can be done online at www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au or at Council's customer service counters.

Registration fees are set by the NSW Government and increase every July. For all registration types and details go to www.olg.nsw.gov.au/content/registration-fees.



Registration Type	Fee
Animal not desexed	\$207
Desexed animal	\$57
Desexed animal owned by eligible pensioner	\$24
Assistance animal	\$0

Plastics recycling

Most people have a reasonable understanding of the “what goes in what bin?” dilemma, however sometimes a bit of well-meaning but incorrect advice can set us on the wrong path.

One of the main areas of confusion is plastics, so here's a quick tip on what plastics can or can't be recycled through our yellow recycling bins in the Blue Mountains:

Do the crunch test - Any 'scrunchable' soft plastics such as bread bags, cling wrap, plastic bags and chip packets should NOT be put in your yellow recycling bin.

Soft plastic recycling is available at some supermarkets and retail outlets. Ask your local supermarket if they collect soft plastics for recycling. Otherwise use your red garbage bin as a last resort.

Rigid plastics such as laundry detergent and shampoo bottles CAN be recycled, even berry punnets and biscuit trays can go in your yellow recycling bin.

Two of the most common items found in our yellow recycling bins that don't belong are as follows: newspapers and magazines wrapped in plastic; and recyclables bundled in plastic bags.

These can contaminate a whole truck load of recyclables so remember to remove the soft plastic BEFORE you recycle the contents.

If you have any other questions about what waste goes where check the online A-Z of waste & recycling or download the Blue Mountains Waste App. Otherwise send us an email on wasteofficer@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or call **4780 5000**. We'd love to hear from you.



WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS

BLUE
MOUNTAINS
THEATRE +
COMMUNITY HUB

Morning Melodies presents Beyond the Danube - Wednesday 8 August, 11am. Speed violinist Vov Dylan and The Palace Orchestra will perform a stunning repertoire of classics. Tickets \$20.

Kaki King (USA) – Sat 18 August, 8pm. This extraordinary guitar virtuoso presents her stunning multimedia solo show, *The Neck Is A Bridge To The Body*. An immersive and provocative feast for the senses. Tickets \$38 / C\$35



Glenn A. Baker presents The Nancy & Lee Experience – Friday 14 Sep, 8pm. A riotous journey through the music of 1960s with the quirky duo Nancy Sinatra & Lee Hazlewood. Tickets \$33/ C \$30



Xylouris White (Crete/Aus) – Friday 21 September, 8pm. Enjoy the visionary collaboration of Cretan lute player George Xylouris & Aussie drummer Jim White with their free-jazz, avant-rock & Greek folk traditions. Tickets \$36 / C\$33

Always... Patsy Cline – Saturday 22 September, 8pm. A musical play about Patsy Cline's friendship with a fan from Houston named Louise Seger. Tickets \$55/ C\$50



Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office, on 4723 5050 or online at bluemountainstheatreandhub.com.au



IMAGE: JOHN SOUTH Skyworld 2018, video installation

Exhibition on until Saturday 18 August

The Blue Mountains City Art Gallery will be transformed during **2018 NAIDOC** celebrations in conjunction with exhibition *John South: Skyworld*. Events will explore **Aboriginal Astronomy** with panel discussions, stargazing & storytelling. www.bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au



Wednesday 22 August, 9.45am - 1pm

This workshop will provide you with an overview of the taxation and superannuation obligations associated with starting and operating your small business. Please phone Western Sydney Business Centre head office on 4721 5011 to reserve your seat or visit wsbusiness.com.au.



Sunday 23 September, 2 - 5pm

Come and learn about the Aboriginal heritage values of Gloria Park and give the site a helping hand by doing some weeding at the same time. This is the third 'Weed, Walk and Talk' session to be held in Hazelbrook. You can book online at bushcarebluemountains.org.au.



Saturday 8 September, 10am – 3pm

The **Bushfire Building Community Day** will be on at the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub. There will be bushfire building expert advice, BAL related products and an update on the upcoming bushfire season. There will be a sausage sizzle and kids activities. bmee.org.au/community-forum.



Saturday 10 November, 2 – 4pm

This FREE 2 hour workshop is an ideal way as a parent or carer to get practical advice on how to help **learner drivers become safer drivers**. Get info on how to complete logbooks, plan lessons, latest license conditions and a Q&A session. Bookings essential, 4780 5000. bmcc.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety



Saturday 18 August, 9am – 1pm

Child care seat safety check - get a free inspection by an Authorised Restraint Fitter and have your child car seats, harnesses & booster seats checked for safety & fit at the Hazlewood Childcare Centre car park, 10 Rosedale Ave, Hazelbrook, 2779. Bookings essential, 4780 5000. bmcc.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety

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