

News from the Hill

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MAYORAL ELECTIONS

The Mayoral Election for Blue Mountains City Council was held at the Council meeting on Tuesday 27 September 2016.

Cr Mark Greenhill was elected Mayor and Cr Chris Van der Kley was elected as Deputy Mayor, both for a two year term.

BLUE MOUNTAINS AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Do you know an outstanding or inspiring Blue Mountains citizen? Nominations are now being sought for the 2017 Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards. **See inside for details.**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The new Council of the City of Blue Mountains has commenced its four year term after the recent Local Government elections. I welcome the new Council and look forward to working together, as a stable local government, in the best interests of the community and the City.

As I embark on my fourth term as Mayor, I reflect on the many achievements of the Council and the community over the last year, and the term of the Council, with pride.

The Council and the City are well placed noting Council's overall financial position and forecast is positive as we continue to balance our budget every year, reduce our debt ahead of target, and live within our means. We achieved a standard LEP that will balance appropriate land use and development with the protection of village character and our World Heritage environment. With the support of the community, we secured additional income from a special rate variation to improve the level of service to the community.

We introduced a new waste service, including a green bin collection, with early signs of success in reducing waste to landfill. We have overcome the threat of amalgamation, and we have been assessed as fit for the future by IPART. These achievements are in addition to the day to day delivery of services to the community and completing major projects. We achieved much of this at the same time as managing the community recovery from the October 2013 bushfires, the worst natural disaster in NSW history.

For the next two years as Mayor, we will lead the Council's focus on the key issues that are important to residents and the broader community. We will continue to advocate on behalf of the community in opposing the Western Sydney Airport proposal at Badgery's Creek. Preparing our community for any risk of bushfire events is also a priority.

The Council will continue its collective efforts to deliver acceptable and affordable services to our community, make even further progress towards financial sustainability, and remain focused on building a successful future for the City.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill OAM



PREPARING FOR A BUSH FIRE IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

There are four simple steps to help prepare yourself, your family and your community for the bush fire season.

1: DISCUSS What you will do in a bush fire and plan now - talk to the people in your household about what to do when a bush fire threatens your home. If you intend to leave early: what will be your signal to leave; where will you go; how will you get there; what will you take and what is your backup plan? If you intend to stay: who will stay, what equipment do you have; how you will cope and what is your backup plan?

2: PREPARE Your Home and Get Ready - make it as safe as possible during a bush fire. Do this by trimming overhanging branches; mow your lawn and remove the clippings; remove all flammable materials from around your home; clean gutters and remove all debris; have a garden hose handy that can reach around the house.

3: KNOW the Bush Fire Alert Levels - Understand what the Fire Danger Rating metre indicates when the pointer changes from Low to Moderate through to Catastrophic and what each rating tells you. Once a bush fire has started, know the difference between the alert levels: Advice; Watch & Act; & Emergency Warning and what each alert means to you and your family.

4: KEEP Key Information - In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area. Keep important numbers and sources of information in your phone, tablet and computer. Bush Fire Information Line: **1800 679 737**; 'Fires Near Me' smart phone app; [facebook.com/nswrfs](https://www.facebook.com/nswrfs); twitter.com/nswrfs. *In a life threatening emergency call Triple Zero (000).*

For more information: contact the Blue Mountains Fire Control Centre: **4784 7444** or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au



1. DISCUSS



2. PREPARE



3. KNOW



4. KEEP



FIRE DANGER RATINGS

RESOURCING OUR FUTURE

Special variation projects to rollout

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

During 2016/17 special rate variation funds are being targeted to the renewal and maintenance of existing built assets (such as roads, drainage, parks and town centres), improvement of emergency response and preparedness, improvements to community services and facilities and the continuation of environmental programs, including restoration and protection of the natural environment, indigenous cultural initiatives and natural area facilities such as the upgrade and maintenance of walking tracks, lookouts and other visitor facilities.

The detailed works program for 2016/17 is available at www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/specialratevariation/specialratevariationrollout201617

Recent achievements

The special rate variation has enabled Council to secure significant grant funding that requires matching Council funds. This is evident in Council's endeavours to improve transport and pedestrian access throughout the City. Guided by Council's Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP), Council has completed various pedestrian facilities such as kerb ramps and signage between Linden and Mt Victoria, with a further roll out of works during 2016/17, totalling \$286,000.

The Winter Sports Facilities Cleaning program concluded in September 2016. This service provided increased cleaning of all sports facilities throughout the City by having a dedicated cleaner for sports facilities and the use of new cleaning equipment.

Did you know that Council manages 175km of footpaths in the City? Council has delivered an increased level of service for the cleaning of pavements in town and village retail precincts, including 24 toilet blocks and 30 bus shelters between Blackheath to Glenbrook; over 1km of town centre footpaths; cenotaph and memorials; and much, much more between July and September 2016.

Coming up

A further \$55,000 package of works funded by the special rate variation will roll out in 2016/17 in accordance with Council's PAMP program between Faulconbridge to Lapstone. This work includes the delivery of various pedestrian facilities such as sections of new pathway, kerb ramps and signage.



Improving pedestrian facilities in the Blue Mountains

With over \$250,000 in grant funding to be matched by Council, work will start on the next section of the popular Great Blue Mountains Trail from Blackheath to Mt Victoria. This project will be delivered progressively throughout 2016 - 2018.

The special rate variation funded Pavement Cleaning Program will continue with a focus on the Echo Point, Katoomba and Leura precincts up to December 2016.

WASTE NEWS

Congratulations Blue Mountains residents! The new waste service, introduced on 4 July 2016, is showing early signs of success with 39% less waste being sent to landfill during July to September 2016.

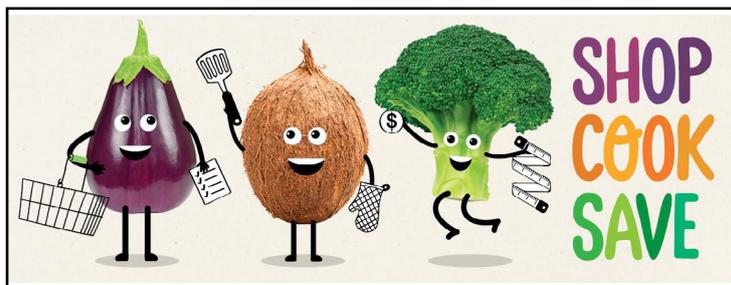
Shop. Cook. Save.

Did you know that you could be wasting \$1000 on groceries every year? To help avoid this, Council will be hosting a *Shop. Cook. Save. Workshop* with celebrity chef Jay Huxley at the Springwood Growers Market in November.

Shop. Cook. Save. is all about learning the benefits of planning meals, shopping to a list and cooking at home.

Jay, a former Master Chef contestant, will be showing us how to shop smarter, cook healthier and save money by wasting less food. Participants will receive a goody bag to help keep food fresh for longer, be shown how to transform your leftovers and figure out proper portion sizes.

Be sure to keep an eye out in the local paper and Council's facebook page for more event information and booking details.



Polystyrene Waste

Council is now accepting polystyrene from the public at Blaxland WMF for processing and recycling. This will help remove polystyrene from the waste stream.

Community Recycling Centre

The Community Recycling Centre, located at the Katoomba Resource Recovery & Waste Management Facility provides residents with a free, year round, drop off service for those items listed to the right.

Dangerous goods and items other than those listed will not be accepted.

Only household quantities are accepted - 20kg or 20L maximum container size. Handle and transport your items carefully. Protect your vehicle by placing items on a protective sheet or tray in the boot to capture any leakages or breakages.

The Community Recycling Centre is located at Katoomba Resource Recovery & Waste Management Facility, Woodlands Rd, Katoomba, NSW 2780.

It is open daily from 8am to 4:30pm and is only closed on Christmas Day.

This is a NSW EPA Waste Less Recycle More initiative funded from the Waste Levy.

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Gas bottles and fire extinguishers
- 

Household and car batteries
- 

Paint
- 

Motor and other oils
- 

Fluoro globes and tubes
- 

Smoke detectors

BUCKLE UP WITH FREE CHILD RESTRAINT CHECKS

Do you know if your children's capsule, car or booster seat is fitted correctly in your car?

Many children are injured or killed in car crashes each year. Some of these deaths and injuries are preventable or can be reduced if the right child car seat is used correctly. It is a requirement of National Child Restraint laws that all children up to seven years of age must be safely fastened in the correct restraint for their age and size.

As part of the Local Government Road Safety Program, Blue Mountains City Council is giving parents and carers the opportunity to have their child restraints checked and fitted correctly for free.



There will be Roads Maritime Service (RMS) authorised Child Restraint Fitters available on the day to check and fit restraints and provide advice on keeping kids safe in cars.

The check is free of charge but if any new straps or buckles are required these will be at the expense of the parent or carer.

Keep your kids safe by choosing the right child restraint for your child's age and size. More information about child restraints can be found here: www.childcarseats.com.au.

FREE CHILD RESTRAINT CHECK DAY

Date: Saturday 19 November 2016

Time: 9am - 1pm

Location: Blue Mountains City Council car park, 2-6 Civic Place, Katoomba.

Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Book with Council's Road Safety Co-ordinator on **4780 5000**.

ID PLEASE - LAWS FOR DOG OWNERS IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

The NSW Companion Animals Act is the law that sets out the rules for dog and cat owners in NSW. All dog and cat owners must abide by these rules or risk prosecution by their local council on behalf of the State Government.

Wear a collar and ID tag: Some dog owners are unaware that as well as being microchipped, their dog must wear a collar with a name tag that shows the name of the dog and the address or telephone number of the owner. The dog doesn't have to wear these at home, but it must wear them each time it goes out. Dogs in off-leash areas need to wear a collar and tag.

Wear a leash: Dog owners must not allow their dog to leave their property without being on a leash and under the control of a responsible person. The law does not consider a person able to control more than four dogs at a time. And dogs must still be under the control of a responsible person in an off-leash area – being under control means that the dog will obey voice commands.

What Council can do: A dog owner can be fined if their dog is seen in public without a collar and tag. The only people exempt from these laws are owners of dogs that are used for working or protecting stock.

Owning a dog is a serious responsibility and a dog owner is accountable for their dog's behaviour. Before buying a dog a person should carefully consider whether they will be able to comply with the rules of the NSW Companion Animals Act.



Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards

Nominate NOW

Nominations Close
Friday 25 November 2016

The Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards recognise 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 for Blue Mountains residents of excellence from all backgrounds and fields of endeavour including community service, humanitarian, business, science and technology, arts and entertainment, sport, education and environment.

Categories Include

Citizen of the Year • Young Citizen of the Year • Sportsperson of the Year

Blue Mountains Australia Day Awards Information and nomination forms for are available from council's website www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/australiadayawards, the Springwood and Katoomba Council offices, your local library or by contacting Mikaela Sherlock on **4780 5760** or msherlock@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

Contact Us

Locked Bag 1005,
Katoomba NSW 2780

Telephone (Local Call Charges):

West from Woodford 4780 5000

East from Linden 4723 5000

Fax: 4780 5555

Email: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Online

www.bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au

[facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil)

twitter.com/BlumtsCityCncl

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

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Ward 2 - Wentworth Falls to Falconbridge/Springwood

Cr Chris Van der Kley

0427 805 810

cvanderkley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Romola Hollywood

0414 195 983

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Cr Brent Hoare

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Ward 3 - Falconbridge/Springwood to Valley Heights

Cr Daniel Myles

0414 418 161

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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)

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

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BLUE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY THEATRE AND HUB

An Evening with Professor Gillian Triggs - Wednesday 30 November 6.30pm

A fundraiser for Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group | Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub, 106 Macquarie Road, Springwood

Human Rights Commissioner, Professor Gillian Triggs, is coming to the Blue Mountains Theatre to address the Mountains' community on Human Rights - Refugees and Border Protection policies. Also speaking on the night is Madeline Gleeson, who is an authority on International Refugee Law and will be speaking about her new book 'Offshore' - which looks at offshore processing on Manus Island and Nauru.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event is former Australian Federal Court Judge - Murray Wilcox AO, QC. The evening has been made possible by the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group and Council, who are working together to bring more information to residents of the Blue Mountains regarding the laws and policies that exist in our country at present. The evening will provide a thought-provoking perspective, as these matters are currently at the forefront of community interest.

Tickets: Are \$20 each or \$15 for Concession. **Bookings:** www.bluemountainstheatre.com or **4723 5050**

BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE - WHAT'S ON

Artist Selected for Honouring Country - Sharing our Stories Program

Blue Mountains City Council, the Cultural Centre and the BMCC Aboriginal Advisory Committee launched the *Honouring Country – Sharing our Stories* program during NAIDOC week 2016 and invited local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to submit an artwork proposal for acquisition into the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Collection. Local artist John South (Barkindji) was selected with his body of work *Waterlily Pond* (working title). The video montage work will be displayed in the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Lounge area throughout 2017.

Wollemi Artisan Market: Friday 2 December 5.30 – 8.30pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Twilight Wollemi Artisan Market held on the Cultural Centre Viewing Platform. Featuring a wide range of artists and designers from the Blue Mountains, Sydney and West of the Divide, the markets will be a great opportunity to do your Christmas shopping and support local makers.

Further information about news & events: www.bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au

LIBRARY NEWS

International Games Day

Saturday 19 November | all day | Katoomba Library | A FREE event

Games enthusiasts of all ages are invited to a day of board game fun when Katoomba Library joins over a thousand libraries around the world for the ninth annual celebration of board games in libraries – **International Games Day @ Your Library**.

This special event is suitable for the whole family and Blue Mountains Library are proud to partner with the popular Katoomba games shop, Afternoonified, to present a variety of new and different board games and to offer tuition in how to play. There will be craft activities and games for sale too.

International Games Day @ Your library is an international initiative supported by

the Australian Library and Information Association. <http://igd.ala.org>.

Poetry Under the Stars 2016

Friday 25 November | 6.30 to 8:30pm | Katoomba Library | A FREE for all ages

The Library's popular, annual celebration of poetry and the wonder of poems is back for its fifth year. Bring a blanket, a cushion, a picnic and settle in for an evening of magical entertainment. Each year brings a new twist, presenting exciting and different local poets. The first half of the evening will be dedicated to performances for younger audiences promising to deliver a few laughs and, as night falls, the second half will explore some more complex works. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Library and there will still be 'stars'.



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